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GST INCLUSIVE



By Richard Kreider

It is Grand Final grief yet again for Perth Glory following a surprise yet well-deserved 1-0 victory to the Olympic Sharks at a purple and orange draped Subiaco Oval last Sunday.

A quality 48th minute left-foot strike from Sharks' high-profile signing and Marston Medal winner Ante Milicic proved the only difference in a game where goal attempts were a scarcity because of tight and tough defending at both ends.

"It's been an amazing run," said a delighted Sydney coach Gary Philips. "We were the better team today, and that was without Troy Halpin. This is credit to the players that stepped up," he said.

It is the first championship trophy for the Sharks since season 1989-90 when they finished the home and away season in fifth-spot and clinched the top-five title from the then Premiers Marconi Stallions.

The Sydneysiders finished in third place this time around and had to endure a tough finals campaign

before taking on and defeating the runaway Premiers before almost 43,000 pro-Perth supporters.

From skipper Clint Bolton in goal through to Milicic in the firing line, the Sharks showed the right amount of commitment and fervour that is required to win such a game.

"We went to Auckland half-way through the season after we had beaten Glory 3-1 and lost 2-1. It was the depths of despair; but from then on it's been such a ride until this occasion — it's just amazing," said Philips.

For Glory however, it is a second grand final defeat at Subiaco Oval, following the astonishing 1999-2000 penalty shootout loss to Wollongong Wolves, after leading 3-0 lead at half-time.

Because of the loss, Glory coach Mich d'Avray was forced to defend his charges from claims of not being able to handle the pressure when it mattered.

"There was talk before the match that we are a team of échokers' but there is no way in the world that has anything to do with it today," said d'Avray.

"It was a very tight game and funnily enough, I didn't say it to the players, but walking up to the box in the second half I thought that one goal would maybe win it."

"We had a couple of half chances without really extending Clint Bolton, but I don't think Jason (Petkovic) had much to do in the whole game either except pick the ball out of the net once," said d'Avray.

"It's quite obvious the players were disappointed at losing but not gutted. I think you have got to take the whole season in context. The players have had such a magnificent season," said the former Ipswich Town star.

Perth match-captain Bobby Despotovski was equally defensive about his team's performance and that there was nothing between either side except Milicic's goal.

"It was only one mistake we made and they scored," said Despotovski. "It was a lucky break — nothing else."

"One game doesn't make the whole season. They

finished third if you remember and we finished twelve or thirteen points clear. Overall, the players have done the business and we were league leaders from day one."

"Unfortunately, (we lose) one game we are not champions — but we are not losers," said the talented striker who would be the first to agree that he had a below par game.

"I'm disappointed as captain I couldn't deliver the goods on the day," he said.

Meanwhile, Philips believes the victory will do wonders for the code at the New South Wales club. "In Brisbane it was a case of success coming a little bit early, given their results in later years after that 1996/97 win."

"I think we now have a good structure in place, a new home, an unbelievable amount of untapped talent in the area namely fourteen thousand-odd junior players and a pretty good CEO with a clear vision," he said.

"I believe we have the right people in place now and hopefully the success will continue."

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AUSSIIES ABROAD BY BINESH MUDALIAR

ABSW's Aussies Abroad Team of the Year

			
Zeljko Kalac (Roda JC — Holland)			
			
Kevin Muscat (Wolves — England)	Lucas Neill (Blackburn Rovers — England)	Eddy Bosnar (Sturm Graz — Austria)	Danny Tiatto (Manchester City — England)
			
Brett Emerton (Feyenoord-Holland)	Josip Skoko (Racing Genk — Belgium) - Captain	Marco Bresciano (Empoli-Italy)	Scott Chipperfield (FC Basel — Switzerland)
			Coach: John Samaras (OFI Crete)
Mark Viduka (Leeds United-England)		Saso Petrovski (Viborg-Denmark)	

Player of the Season:
Lucas Neill

Rookie of Season:
Luke Wilkshire
(Middlesbrough)



Luke Wilkshire

Disappointments of the Season:
• Harry Kewell's injury disrupted campaign
• Paul Okon dropping from the Premier League to Division 1
• The inclusion of Ante Seric and Joe Simunic in Croatia's World Cup squad

Highlights of the Season:
• Josip Skoko captaining Genk to the Belgian League title
• Craig Moore winning the Scottish FA Cup with Glasgow Rangers
• Danny Tiatto winning a return to the Premiership with Manchester City

NEWS FLASH!

- ZELJKO KALAC will be trialling at Italian club, Perugia.
- Brisbane Strikers' goalkeeper NATHAN COE has signed for Auxerre of France.
- TIM CAHILL looks certain to sign for Aston Villa after Millwall failed to win promotion to the Premier League.
- Wollongong defender BEN BLAKE will be trialling at Dutch club, Heerenveen.
- Ipswich Town's ambitious bid for MARK BOSNICH failed on the weekend when they were relegated to Division One.

PAUL OKON's career is in limbo after being released by Watford last week. The 30 year-old was one of five players given the chop by the Hornets but Watford manager Gianluca Vialli is keen to re-offer deals to Okon and former

Brescia defender Filippo Galli. Luca told the official Watford website, "My hands are somewhat tied by the financial situation which, like virtually all other Division One clubs, we find ourselves in right now."
"So we're more keen at the moment to off-load players in order to be in a situation to be able to make offers to Paul and Filippo, and also to be able to make signings when we feel the time is right."

Okon made 14 appearances for Watford since moving from 'Boro in January.

MARK VIDUKA missed Leeds United's final game of the premiership season due to an ankle

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SOCCER TRIVIA

In the 1990's, how many times did Manchester United win the English First Division/Premier League title?
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trivia_madness@hotmail.com
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BRETT EMERTON's former Feyenoord teammate and current Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek hopes that Emo will be at Anfield next season. Dudek told Planet Football, "I have no doubt that Brett will be good for English football."

"I hope he can come to Liverpool because his mentality is like those of the people we have at the club."
"I hope Brett can make the same choice as I made last summer by signing for Liverpool."

Despite lifting the Scottish FA Cup two weekends ago, AIS graduate CRAIG MOORE has pleaded with his teammates to recapture

the league title following the holy grail travelling to the green part of Glasgow for the past two seasons.

The Queenslander told the official Rangers website last week, "Winning the Cup Final was fantastic because, although we still have one more league game left, everybody can go away now on a high and enjoy their break."

"But I'm sure we'll all be looking forward to getting back into it and return to winning ways for next season."

"We want to win the league as that must be our main target — let's stop the rot!"

In news from Norway, Socceroo striker CLAYTON ZANE has only a handful of games left with Lillestrom before his departure south to Belgian giants Anderlecht. Zane's move is likely to spark a striker crisis at Lillestrom according to the Norwegian press.

Magnus Powell is set to move on as well and with Arild Sundgot in the middle of a goal drought, the club will have to rely on veteran Jan Aage Fjortoft to lead their attack next season unless suitable replacements are found.

Wolverhampton Wanderers CEO Jez Moxey has admitted to Planet Football that rugged defender KEVIN MUSCAT signed a pre-contract agreement with Glasgow Rangers, but is far from happy with the situation. Moxey seethed, "As far as we know Muscat has signed for Rangers."

"He admitted to signing a pre-contract, which is in contravention of Football League rules, after first denying it."

"I'm sure innocence will play a part for the player. Although he may not have realised it, he was in breach of the rules. I don't believe Rangers have breached the rules."

"I'm very unhappy about this and I make no apologies for expressing my anger."

Quote of the Week

Wolverhampton Wanderers CEO Jez Moxey hit the roof this week when he heard of KEVIN MUSCAT's pre-contract agreement with Glasgow Rangers. Of Muzz's move north, Moxey said:

"As far as I am concerned, this is not yet dead."

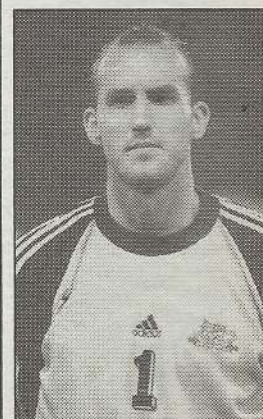


Pic of the Week



ROSS ALOISI of C1 gir. a club, ALZANO.

Player of the Week



MARK SCHWARZER of Middlesbrough.

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SOUTH PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

By Bert van Bedaf



National League club South Melbourne paid tribute to its outgoing and longest serving president George Vasilopoulos, who stepped down after 25 years of service to the

club he loved.

"It was time go," Vasilopoulos said. "It was planned to happen at this time."

As a migrant boy from Greece more than four decades ago, Vasilopoulos watched the Lakesiders play in Victoria's halcyon days of soccer and decided there and then to devote a large slice of his life to the club and the game.

He's rubbed shoulders with the world greats of football and has hugged grassroots supporters in grief and joy. His was a tearful farewell last week, but his departure was not unexpected.

Simply, it was time for him to go and it is a credit to the club that it allowed him to retire gracefully after a roller-coaster season and

unrivalled tension and drama in public view and behind the scenes in his last few months.

Vasilopoulos was accused of squandering funds and savagely attacked on fanzine websites. He withstood two challenges to his position and won a bitter election in an acrimonious year. He was proud, he was loyal and ultimately he was past his use-by date.

Now, he announced, he will facilitate "a genera-

tional change". His likely successor is club chairman Peter Mitrakas. The challenger and fellow board member Panos Margaritis is given little chance in the boardroom vote.

"The club's record and achievements during Vasilopoulos' reign as president have been second to none," Mitrakas said.

"The Board of South Melbourne wishes to thank George Vasilopoulos for his 25 years of service to the club," he said.

"George Vasilopoulos gave most of his time to the club even to the detriment of his health and family life", senior Vice-President Jim Karakoussis said.

Vasilopoulos privately admitted at times he'd sacrificed family life in favour of club duties and allowed his health to deteriorate on several occasions.

"I have given everything to this club. I have put it above my family and my own health," Vasilopoulos said.

He devoted a large slice of his life to soccer in Victoria and

Australia. He's been part of South Melbourne's great rise to prominence and has presided over enormous success as well as desperately barren years.

Vasilopoulos began his administrative rise when South Melbourne was based at the old Middle Park stadium. He became a committee member and as a banker, it was natural he was elected treasurer in his first term in 1984, when South won its first national title.

In 1989, he became president and kept the position for 13 years. He also served as treasurer of the Victorian Soccer Federation, as NSL commissioner and as treasurer of Soccer Australia's finance committee. He was awarded an Australian Sports Medal

in 2000.

His football decisions were intuitive and he never interfered with the coaching staff. He appointed former Hungarian and Real Madrid great Ferenc Puskas as coach and created instant success with a magnificent team. Under Puskas, South claimed its second



South Melbourne will no longer have the services of George Vasilopoulos who has stepped down as president after 25 years service.

national title in 1991.

He also brought former Socceroo coach Frank Arok to the club, which preceded back-to-back titles under coach Ange Postecoglou in 1998 and 1999.

His other choice, Mike Petersen gave the club a minor premiership and a losing grand final last season.

With former Premier turned radio jock Jeff Kennett as No.1 ticket holder, South found a new home at Bob Jane stadium, when it's old stadium was demolished in 1995 to make way for the Grand Prix circuit around Albert Park Lake.

"Vasilopoulos' efforts overseeing the development of Bob Jane Stadium and the re-building of the squad to win back-to-back championships was remarkable," Karakoussis said.

The 1999 victory propelled South to claim the Oceania club title and a place at the first-ever world club championship, held in Brazil in January 2000.

There, South Melbourne rose to world stardom. It was pitted against some of the most famous clubs in the world, including the European champion Manchester United and South American holder Vasco da Gama. During those wonderful times South Melbourne was ranked the highest Australian club side in the world.

Participation earned the club \$3.5 million, which was swallowed up in two full-time seasons. Vasilopoulos was severely criticised for the loss of the funds and the club's near \$1 million debt that is also part of his legacy.

Apart from a shortage of funds this season, Vasilopoulos also witnessed an injury-riddled decline and a miraculous revival under coach Eddie Krncevic, his last appointment, to finish fifth and two games outside a grand final berth.

George Vasilopoulos was a passionate president, for whom a passionate embrace was a sincere and heartfelt act of emotion. His successor will be announced within a fortnight. His will be a hard act to follow.

COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

By Daniel Kuziow

While the nominations for the various on-field awards have already been distributed, Soccer Australia has now released the nominations for the National Soccer League Coach of the Year.



Newcastle United's Ian Crook has been nominated for the Coach of the Year Award.

The three nominees are: IAN CROOK who in his first season in charge at the club after moving north from Northern Spirit, took United to the brink of a Grand Final birth, along with a runners up position in the regular season.

Under the patronage of United chairman Constantine, Crook built a team worthy representing a

soccer-obsessed community and managed along the way to give the Novocastrian-based side their first ever final's appearance.

He joins Perth Glory's MICH D'AVRAY who kept the Glory juggernaut rolling on in season 2001/2002. He guided his charges to a minor premiership with a record 13 point winning margin and kept the more established soccer communities of New South Wales and Victoria looking towards the West as the Glory captured every possible plaudit and award.

The Brisbane Strikers' JOHN KOSMINA is the last of the nominees and his achievements are also worth a mention.

Following the turmoil at the beginning of the season where the Strikers were



Glory's Mich D'Avray joins Crook in his nomination for Coach of the Year.

declined re-entry in the National competition then after a short period were reinstated, Kosmina took his



John Kosmina steered the Strikers to the semi finals and has also been nominated for Coach of the Year honours.

club to fourth place in the League and their first semi-final appearance since their inaugural Championship some five years ago.

Coaches at any level of this beautiful game often become a shadow in the wake of a team's success. They are more often than not that vital link in turning a group of players into a championship winning side, yet sadly their work goes unheralded.

Such awards are the ideal way of recognising the hard working people instructed to bring success to each and every club.



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A complete job description is available on the NSW Soccer Federation's website www.soccernsw.com.au, or by contacting Lindal Whitton or Mandy Brinnand on (02) 9629 1800.

Applications close Wednesday 22 May 2002

Written Applications should be clearly marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' and forwarded to Mr Robert Waddell CEO, New South Wales Soccer Federation P.O. Box 6146, Baulkham Hills Business Centre, NSW 2153.

MARCONI APPOINTS RAUL BLANCO AS HEAD COACH FOR NEXT SEASON

By Stuart Jones

Marconi this week appointed a new coaching staff for next season. As expected Marconi Director of Football Rale Rasic announced Raul Blanco as first team coach and Doug Utjesenovic as assistant and youth team coach.

Rasic spoke to ABSW this week on the appointments. "I was looking for people with total professional commitment. People who will not just work four or five days but be committed to working 52 weeks a year at the club. The coaching staff here will not be restricted by PFA rules."

"Raul has been associated with the Australian national team in some shape or means for the last 20 years. He worked under the best coaches (like Terry, Les and Eddie) and then ran the national team himself. Nothing else needs to be said about the man, he has a great sense of humour as well and has a fantastic attitude to sport."

"Doug was on a par with Milan Ivanovic in terms of his technical ability and knowledge when it comes to his playing days. His background included a stint at OFK Belgrade where he learnt a lot about the game. His service to St George and Australia was outstanding. If it were not for a knee reconstruction he would have played many more times for Australia. When in charge at Melita the club won the minor premiership and then the grand finals in all three grades, U18, U21 and first grade (this was a NSW first). He always gives advice on players coming through the youth ranks and knows each players development through all the ranks."

"I wanted coaches who were loyal and

committed 100%. With this coaching team I don't have to go into the stadium to know what is going on, I know they will be doing the right thing. Now we are looking at appointing a youth coach and a chief scout."

Raul Blanco was delighted with being back in coaching at the top level once more; "I am very honoured and very excited about the incredible challenge Marconi have offered me. I have been very keen to get back involved. When my commitments finished with Soccer Australia I had been involved in coaching for over 25 years so thought I deserved a break. After a few months though I grew to miss the game immensely, my love for the game resurfaced because I was away from it. I knew I had to be patient and I remained positive thinking my chance would come again. I am very aware of how tough the coaching profession is so it is great to be able to start again at Marconi."

There has been some criticism that the old guard is returning at the expense of younger coaches, even inside the coaching fraternity, and Blanco hits out at that criticism. "Are these same people saying that the likes of Ferguson, Zagallo, Trappotini, Robson, Menotti, and Multinovic can't coach? I am saddened by comments from unethical and disrespectful people without a memory. There are always some negative people out to discredit those who have worked long and hard in this game. They are doing the game and those long standing servants in it no justice by diminishing their work. If soccer is left in the hands of these sort of people then the future of the game is not good. These critics are really teaching us, and younger coaches, an incredible lesson, and that is what not to do. The good thing is we know who those people who are bitter are but there really is no need for them to be, we have

done nothing against them. We should all acknowledge each other with respect."

"Marconi is a big club and I believe it is the best team in the country, and that means I have big responsibilities. This is the best moment of my coaching life so far and I am looking forward to it a lot. I have much to offer, you don't put up this sort of career mileage and not learn something from the trip."

As for comments by some of Rale Rasic interfering in the coaching Blanco again is blunt; "Rale and I are friends and have been for over 30 years. We have had a deep respect for each other without even having worked together before. That respect will show even more now we are on the same team. We both know where our lines are and we will not cross them. Having Rale is really a blessing as I have someone running the big picture who knows the game and understand both my team and my needs. I can just meet the players and get on with running the team whilst Rale looks after the bigger picture."

Doug Utjesenovic was equally as delighted; "Marconi has always been a great club, a traditional giant. Even walking into the empty stadium you feel the buzz. I am looking forward to get back into the coaching side straight away. 1st June is the first date with the players and before that we will sit down with all the youth coaches."

"Marconi can not rely on buying players so we must build a foundation for the future through the youth structure. If the youth team are not producing players for first grade then you may as well not have it. My greatest pleasure is to see a young player develop and play regularly in the first team."

"I always love the game and watch every game that is on TV or I am always reading soccer books. I try to be a perfectionist in everything I do and hard work is something I enjoy. I am result driven and like my teams to play good entertaining soccer. At Marconi we need people to come back through the gates but our supporters are choosy and will not come unless it is entertaining football. We are about making sure the game is entertaining for the fans."

"We know what our jobs are, Rale, Raul and myself and so should the players. If they do then the club will be successful and we will have great fun along the way. You can already feel the excitement around the club from board level down."

Together the three have over 100 years of football experience. However all three know that without results this will mean nothing. There may be those who see this as a backward move but they forget that for every David O'Leary in Europe there are ten Alex Fergusons.



Marconi's new coaching staff Raul Blanco (left) head coach, Rale Rasic (centre) football director of the Stallions and Doug Utjesenovic new assistant coach.

"SOCCER STARS" — FIVE-A-SIDE TO THE WORLD CUP

Australia will have a team at the World Cup after all. The Soccer Stars amateur soccer team from Melbourne's Prahran is headed to Korea at month end to play in a curtain raiser to the XVIIth FIFA World Cup.

The Stars qualified for their big trip by winning the Asia-Pacific regional finals of the Hyundai championship held late last month in Singapore. There they beat eight teams — including two others from Australia — to emerge champions in the round robin games played at the Padang.

That effort followed Hyundai-sponsored Australian mainland state knock-out tournaments leading to the top 12 state teams contesting national eliminations in Sydney late in March, which then sent the three Australian teams to Singapore.

The other four teams in the regional finals included the top two Singapore local round winners, Police Sports Association and Lost Prophets, plus



Hyundai Indonesia and the Budweiser Bombers from Guam.

As automotive sponsor of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, Hyundai Motor Co in Korea is supplying teams and offi-

cials with hundreds of vehicles, showcasing the brand's wide range of cars and commercial vehicles, of which an increasing variety of the former are now marketed in Australia.

NEWCASTLE UNITED RELEASE PLAYERS WHILE CAPTAIN BINGLEY LOOKS TO NEXT SEASON

By Con Tagaroulas

Newcastle United have released Todd McManus, Brad Swancott, Tallan Martin, Joel Grennell and John Majurovski for the next campaign. Con Constantine has indicated money will be available to strengthen the squad in the right circumstances.

"The players will need to fill two criteria. They need to be quality players with a standard of character that compliments our squad."

The success on the park has translated into average crowds of 9383 through the regular season or 10558 if you include the two finals series crowds. This success has been harnessed through the availability of merchandise and a healthy balance of corporate sponsors.

When asked if United has reached their potential Mr. Constantine is quick to suggest we have "only seen the tip of the iceberg".

The plans for next year include improving the football product by a further strengthening of the squad and an expanded range of merchandise for all tastes and price ranges.

Mr. Constantine was quick to point out that the people of the Hunter "deserve a better venue for their football teams" and will continue to mobilise support for a new stadium. "Families need to come and enjoy the football in comfort in all weather. Half a million people live in the Hunter. They need to remind State and Federal politicians of this fact."

"I approach the United Football club as a business. We never stand still. If we do not improve

whatever competes with our products people don't come back. So we keep improving."

Matthew Bingley, the team captain, was proud of how his teammates had approached the season and believes the building blocks for next seasons campaign had been laid this season. "I've been in a few dressing rooms and ours is definitely top shelf when it comes to desire. We will start next season with a squad that has experienced a two legged and knock out semi-final. We'll be ready."

Matthew was quick to point out that he was overwhelmed by the number of well wishers, after the loss to the Olympic Sharks, that wanted to thank the players for the season. "The Socceroo also believes Newcastle "can go one better next season".

"To me the game is all about the fans here (the club) and at the ground. The only motivation a player needs is exposure to this sort of loyalty. We will do it for them next year and we will do it here. In front of our own."

Matthew echoed the owner's sentiments when pressed on additions to the squad. "Anyone that can make a positive contribution to our dressing room is welcome. I'm sure the coaching staff will only seek players that are competitive in nature and team oriented."

The ex J-League professional will be going under the knife next week under the care of Dr. Halpin who will be correcting a groin problem to ensure that the United captain will be ready to commence pre-season on time.

There seem to be some hungry hearts looking to create history in the coming season both on and off the field. Despite the storm Australian football has endured the weather forecast in Newcastle and Perth seems to be fine and sunny.



Tallan Martin: Former AIS star has been released from Newcastle.

Stefan Del Zio: RISING PARRAMATTA POWER STAR

Fact File

Name: Stefan Del Zio
Age: 17
Club: Parramatta Power Youth (Full-Time)
Position: Midfield
Rep Honours: Captain of NSW Under 14s
Vice Captain of NSW Under 15s
NSWIS Under 17s — Nero Rocco Tournament
Trials: West Ham United
Perugia

By Ben Moring

Stefan Del Zio has been touted as one to look out for, as he stakes his claim for a position in the Joeys, Australia's Under 17s squad.

Del Zio, full-time at Parramatta Power, has a wealth of experience.

Trailng with West Ham United when he was 14 years old and competing for NSWIS in the Nero Rocco Tournament, where Perugia offered him a two-week trial, is testament to this.

Further, the young star has leadership qualities, captaining the NSW Under 14s and vice captaining the NSW Under 15s.

The recent National Northern and Australian Youth Title winners were the Power where young Stefan was apart of a very successful squad. The team itself is one for the future with a number of players like Del Zio walking along that long line of future Australian stars.

ABSW's Ben Moring caught up with the young star:

Q) Many people have linked you with making an appearance for the Joeys, what chance do you think you stand in making the squad?

"I think I have a very good chance, but I will also have to work hard."

"I have been captain of the NSW Under 14s and vice captain of the NSW Under 15s and have also learnt a lot in my short time at Parramatta Power, so all I can do is work hard and then see what happens."

Q) How was your time at the NSW Institute of Sport?

"I went to NSWIS when I was 14. It was a great experience; it had all the set up, everything you needed was there."

"(Coach) Kelly Cross taught me a lot and how to be a professional. He is a great coach, he pulled me aside and pointed out things I was doing wrong and could improve on and also gave me confidence."

"He (Cross) said I could make the Joeys with hard work and was like a mentor to me."

Q) What was the thing that struck you the most about your West Ham experience?

"The speed and toughness over there. I don't think the players are as advanced technically, but they are a little hungrier."

"I was 14 years old and was at Blacktown City at the time."

Q) What impact did the Nero Rocco Tournament make upon you?

"That is one of the best tournaments that you can play in at that age. You have Inter and Juventus there, some of the best teams in the world."

"I was one of the youngest players that went and learnt a lot just by watching them. I then tried to play like them."

Q) What are your perceived strengths and anything you can work on?

"I believe I am a good leader, I work hard and listen very well. I feel I have the ability to read the game well, have good vision and can pass."

"I feel that I have to work on my left foot a little more, however."

Q) Your future ambitions?

"My ambition is to play overseas, but first I am concentrating on making the Joeys and then am hopeful to make the move after that."



Stefan Del Zio: Current Power youth star.

Wolves star Blake Off to Holland

By Mark Stavroulakis

Former Wollongong Wolves defender Ben Blake has jumped on the bandwagon bound for overseas trials in Holland.

The 24-year-old Wolves star is off to Dutch First Division side Heerenveen for a couple of weeks where Blake will be put through tough training sessions and friendly matches.

The skillful defender always had a dream to one day play overseas football so when this offer came about, it was something he could not refuse.

After having a brilliant first season for the Wolves in 2000/2001 where the squad picked up the Championship, Blake spent a quiet past season as Wollongong finished 10th on the National League ladder.

Currently out of contract with the Wolves, Blake has not signaled out a possible return to WIN Stadium if the elegant defender fails to win a contract at the Dutch club.

Offers from other National League clubs have

also been prominent however the young defender is content on doing his best in gaining an overseas contract.

Heerenveen was once a club for Marconi defender Raphael Bove where he spent a season playing in one of the toughest leagues in the world.

The Dutch league has lured and attracted a few

Australians for the following year; Lindsay Wilson at PSV Eindhoven, Brett Emerton currently playing his trade at Feyenoord, young Power striker Brett Holman has also left Sydney's shores bound for trials at Feyenoord, while 17-year-old former Joey, Spase Dilevski currently plays his football at PSV's youth side.



Ben Blake: Yet another Australian hoping to score a professional contract overseas.



Frank Farina has suggested a radical new plan for Oceania World Cup qualification.

By Daniel Kuziow

It seems more and more individuals are becoming embroiled in the debate surrounding the fate of the Oceania champion with,

FARINA SUGGESTS NEW OCEANIA QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Frank Farina floating a radical plan addressing this visible problem.

The Australia coach suggested his plan on Channel 7's Australian Soccer this week, which would see the Oceania champions gain direct qualification to the World Cup only if, the winners were ranked inside the top 50 of FIFA's rankings. If not, then the Oceania winner would go into a playoff against a team from another confederation.

Currently the Socceroos are ranked 48th in the world and under these cur-

rent proposals, Australia would have qualified directly for the Japan/South Korean based World Cup, rather than playing off against Uruguay with such disastrous results.

The effects of such changes would force individual associations such as Soccer Australia and New Zealand Soccer to organise an international calendar against top class opposition — which not only would act as an excellent build-up to the Oceania qualifiers, but also would assist that individual country in moving up the FIFA table.

FOOTBALL FEVER HITS SYDNEY'S WEST

The World Cup is nearly upon us and Sydney's west will be a hive of activity, benefiting from two exclusive events.

The first sees the Marconi Club hosting a Soccer Fever Seminar, with some of this country's most intelligent and influential football iden-

tities on May 27 from 7-9 pm, four days before the World Cup kicks off.

New Marconi gaffer, Raul Blanco, will be joined by illustrious company in Les Scheinflug and Eddie Thompson, with none other than Rale Rasic as MC for the evening.

The night is expected to

be a great success and an estimated 400-600 people, mostly coaches and players from around NSW, will be able to ask questions of these special guests about the 'World Game'.

The night has free admission, with refreshments available and is especially important to Eddie Thompson, who 'fought for football and fought for his life which he overcame.'

The second event, which is a major coup for Radio 2 1611AM, is the exclusive radio coverage of the 2002 World Cup. THE NEW VOICE OF SYDNEY'S WEST has secured the English language broadcast rights for the greatest sporting spectacle on Earth.

Last week ABSW introduced readers to Radio 2's Head Of Sport, Colin Turner.

Turner will spearhead the coverage and has a fantastic

World Cup pedigree, bringing millions of people expert commentary from no less than 5 World Cup Finals.

Turner will be calling each and every game of football's greatest extravaganza, LIVE!

A delighted Turner announced the deal on Friday morning on Radio 2: "We are thrilled to announce the deal to cover the FIFA 2002 World Cup Soccer Finals live on Radio 2 1611AM.

"What it will mean to a great number of soccer fans that live and work in Sydney's west is just fantastic."

Socceroo coach, Frank Farina, echoed those sentiments: "I am sure that all soccer supporters in Sydney will be delighted as they can now follow the games on Radio 2 as well as see them on television."



Colin Turner will head a radio program devoted to the World Cup.

MALONEY, MASI & CECCOLI TO POWER, TOBIN FOR SPIRIT?



Glory's Brad Maloney could move back east to settle with Parramatta Power.

By Binesh Mudaliar

The NSL's most expensive player Brad Maloney is tipped to be seriously contemplating a move back to Sydney after two seasons with the country's ritziest club, Perth Glory.

ABSW sources have informed this writer that Sydney Olympic, Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power will all bid for the services of

the Socceroo midfielder.

However, with former championship winning coach Nick Theodorakopoulos in charge at Parramatta Stadium next season, the Power are expected to win the race for Maloney's signature.

In other developments at the Power, Fiji international striker Esala Masi is also being wooed by the Power after impressive stints at Wollongong Wolves and Newcastle United.

Ex-Socceroo captain Alex Tobin has been released after his contract expired in what is rumoured to be a not-so amicable split between the two parties. It is believed that a big name defender has been signed to replace Tobin. Meanwhile, Tobin himself is said to be on his way to Northern Spirit.

The general opinion of armchair critics is that Parramatta Power has underperformed in their three seasons in the top flight. This is not true of their National Youth League side who this season were crowned champions after defeating Mel-

bourne Knights in the GF. The word is that five of the youngsters will be offered first-grade contracts for next season.

The Power will also be looking to the NSW State League for hidden gems and two players from the Parramatta Eagles will be given a chance to wear the yellow & blue, namely, Paul O'Grady and Mirko Jurilj.

More transfer gossip in the coming issues of ABSW.



Newcastle's Esala Masi is being closely monitored by Power boss Nick Theodorakopoulos.

FRASER PARK JETS



John Sentas: Coach



Adam Snyder



Antonio Farria



Derek Polmer

NSWSF SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 10

FRASER PARK
100 M'ville Rd
Marrickville

Fraser Park vs Hurstville City CS

SUNDAY MAY 19

KICK-OFF
11am Under 19
1pm Under 21

KICK OFF FIRST GRADE 3PM

"Come and see the Jets take off"

National Soccer League

GRAND FINAL

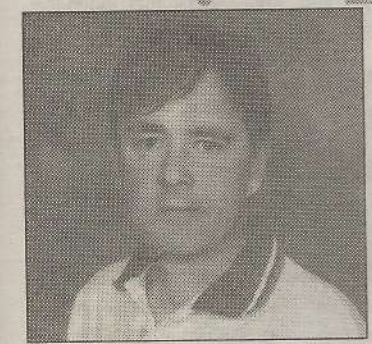


Perth Glory



Olympic Sharks

Olympic Marathon Run is Rewarded



By Richard Kreider

"Perth Glory is not a team of chokers" insists their coach Mich d'Avray following the shock 1-0 loss to the Olympic Sharks at Subiaco Oval last Sunday courtesy of a superb left-footed snapshot from Olympic star striker Ante Milicic.

"You can't pay enough money for that sort of quality finish," said Sharks coach Gary Phillips on the 48th minute winner, which sent the National Soccer League championship to New South Wales.

For Milicic, it has been a dream return to NSL soccer from February this year, after playing in Holland and Croatia since leaving Sydney United in 1997 when his team lost the championship to Brisbane Strikers.

"Those memories of 1997 are put firmly in the past now," said Milicic. "I couldn't deal with the heartbreak of losing two grand finals but I must admit, and I'm not saying this because of the result, but in '97 I felt we were just more than happy to get to the grand final. Whereas today, I could see with the way we had been training over the last few weeks, I felt that this team wasn't just satisfied of just getting to the final; they wanted to win it at all costs."

The former 1993 World Youth International has without doubt played a fundamental role in the Sydney club clinching their first championship in twelve years; and it is a contribution that hasn't gone unnoticed by his coach.

"He deserved to be here and I'm sure that he could do a wonderful job for Frank Farina in a few months time as well," said Phillips.

For Glory, it is a second grand final for the Western Australians in three seasons they will want to forget following the unforgettable 1999-2000 defeat by the Wollongong Wolves. Many pundits would have bet their house on the Glory to win, believing the Wolves defeat would have provided enough impetus. But the team didn't show half the commitment the Sharks portrayed to win the showpiece of Australian league soccer.

"It's a great game when you win but not so great when you lose a game like that," said Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray, who then praised his charges for what they had achieved throughout 2001-02.

"You can't just throw away the whole season and forget what the team has done," he said.

"All the records they have been broken

along the way, losing one game and being the dominant team. Probably 198 countries in the world have a league champion. I know we are in Australia and I understand the rules but the way we look at it, we were trying to do the double like Arsenal but we just couldn't do it."

"Today was a cup final and the Sharks are a good cup team. They had a hard run to the final and we knew they were hot and cold all season. When they were on song they are a good side but if you caught them on a bad day, you could beat them."

"The players gave everything but they had come up against a well-organised Olympic team and one shot, one goal," said d'Avray. "It's a cruel game at times."

"There was talk before the game that we are a team of 'chokers' but there is no way in the world that has anything to do with it today," said d'Avray.

The defeat itself would have been especially hard to swallow for a large number of the Glory "Shed" faithful who were so confident of their team lifting the NSL trophy for the first time, 100 had worn "Perth Glory Champions" t-shirts under their normal supporter tops.

"Tears were flowing from both the guys and girls," said Shed Supporters Club chairman Bas Hanna. "While the Glory fans are gutted however, I noticed the players weren't as disappointed," he said. "There was a real lack of emotion from the players."

However, Olympic captain Clint Bolton was clearly overwhelmed by his team's success and wasted no time heaping praise on each of them.

"You'll never see a greater bunch of guys with more determination and more passion for the game," said the Socceroos goalkeeper.

"The way we've travelled throughout these finals only made us more determined. People had written us off probably half-way through the season, but it just added to our resolve," he said.

"In ourselves, we had no doubt about our ability to beat teams on the day. It was going to come down to who was more determined and who was more courageous out there," said Bolton who later expressed his disappointment over the lack of humility from the Glory supporters when they received their medals in an almost empty stadium.

The match itself couldn't have been more evenly balanced prior to the opening whistle since the head to head battles were dead even. Of the 12 games played, both sides had won four and there was four draws.

Troy Halpin was an obvious absentee from the Olympic midfield, but his replacement in Wayne Sroj more than repaid his coaches faith in his selection. Ante Juric played with his right arm braced and heavily bandaged but the tough sweeper never seemed hindered by it at any stage.

"Ante showed a lot of courage to get through a game like that," said Phillips. "He was obviously desperate to play. He is



The Olympic Sharks squad and some of their fans shown arriving from Perth with the Cup early Monday morning.

twenty-eight years of age and he might not play in another one (final). He was a mountain at the back today."

"Troy also is irreplaceable, lets make no mistake about that," said Phillips. "But Wayne Sroj is captain of the under-twenties and at one stage was rated the best player in the world by Franz Beckenbauer. That's great credit to the club to have such back-up and who could step up and play the game he did. He was a key factor in nullifying Edgar who is probably one of the better players in the country. He was just awesome," said the Olympic boss.

With only 30 seconds showing on referee Mark Shield's watch, Glory's Edgar and Olympic's Tom Pondeljak were involved in a minor shirt wrestle, flamed by the intervention of a number of others equally keen to puff their chests.

The game eventually got underway again and it was the home-side making all the right moves. Gary Faria, who was thrown into the fray because of the injury to Brad Maloney, was one of the busiest players during the opening exchanges.

Matt Horsley, who won a championship medal in 'ethat' game for the Wolves in 2000, was as tenacious as ever along the right flank for the Perth side but it didn't take him long to realise his twin-strikers in Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski were going to be tagged tightly by Paul Kohler and Jayde North throughout the game.

After a quarter of an hours play Despotovski received the first yellow card for a clumsy tackle on Milicic. The subsequent free-kick very nearly put Olympic on the scoresheet through workhorse midfielder Andrew Packer, who collected a clever chipped ball from Sroj on the edge of the wall and let fly with a stinging ground-shot which Jason Petkovic deflected away for a corner.

At the other end, Mori, Despotovski and Horsley were constantly attempting to prise their way through the Sharks backline only to find them impassable for most of the match.

They managed to breach the Olympic wall six minutes before the interval when Brad Hassell dummied a Despotovski pass

to set up Mori, but he blasted his strike too high to bother Bolton. Minutes later Mori came even closer when a looping header sailed onto the far upright.

The second half was only three minutes old when the visitors silenced the large crowd by taking a shock lead.

Greg Owens hustled his way past a number of sliding tackles along the right flank before delivering a squared pass to Milicic on the face of the box. In a burst of acceleration, he turned on the ball, sidestepped a defender before directing a rising left-foot shot past a motionless Petkovic.

"The goal means everything to me because you can score goals all year round and in semi-finals but not on grand final day; that's what is it about," said Milicic.

Bolton was called upon for the first time in the match after an hours play when a Faria corner was almost put away by Mori, only for the Olympic custodian to scramble

away with a boot.

Scott Miller, who had another busy day attempting to prevent Lindsay Wilson from using his pace, was presented with a couple of chances on goal but Bolton was again equal to the challenge. Edgar and substitutes Alistair Edwards and Nick Mrdja tried next to penetrate the Sharks defence but the nearest they got was a 50-50 penalty claim from Mrdja, who came crashing down in the box after 72 minutes.

Glory continued to press in search of an equaliser only to fall at the final hurdle on each occasion. Their best opportunity came three minutes into stoppage time, when a Shane Pryce centre found the head of Despotovski, who directed the ball too close to the grateful goalkeeper.

After another minute of added time, the referee ended the game and sparking scenes of joy from the 500 travelling Olympic supporters as well as the players themselves.

"We did everything in our power to win today," said d'Avray. "It's just that the soccer gods weren't smiling on us."

"There are not enough adjectives in the Thesaurus to describe this team," said Phillips. "It's been an amazing run."



Ante Milicic celebrates his Man-Of-The-Match performance at Sydney Airport last Monday.

EDITOR'S OPINION: SHARKS DEFFY ALL ODDS IN AMZING FINAL WIN

By Mark Stavroulakis

One word sums up the Olympic Squad of 2001/2002, 'Unbelievable'. The wounded army traveled to Perth with what the media had perceived them as a minor chance of winning the Championship.

My how most pundits were proved wrong, Gary Phillips' men played a courageous 90 minutes of football that saw them win their second title in the history of the club.

Ante Milicic, a recent inclusion to the side, smashed home a miraculous left-foot strike that gave the 500 odd traveling Shark fans something to sing about while the other forty plus thousand Glory fans were left silent and bemused.

The Glory had it all, the fans and

the hometown advantage, however the hungry Sharks broke loose and recorded one of the greatest wins in National League history.

Perth was once again left licking their Shark attack wounds and for the second time reflected, on what could have been a brilliant Championship victory.

Soccer is a funny game as they say across the world, anything is possible, always expect the unexpected.

Amidst all the frustration the Sharks went through during Grand-Final week with suspensions and injuries. The Sydney club proved that character and sheer determination lifted the side from nothing to something.

David certainly overcame Goliath at Subiaco Oval on Sunday May 12th 2002.

National Soccer League

GRAND FINAL PLAYER RATINGS.



Olympic Sharks



Perth Glory



CLINT BOLTON: 6

Displayed some nerves early on but was confident after that barring his decision to leave a floating header from Damien Mori that hit the bar. In the frantic final few minutes he stayed strong.



TOM PONDEJAK: 6

Fairly quiet game but he made one or two runs that he is well known for although they came to nothing. The second half saw him step up more and also got involved in defending the lead.



ANTE JURIC: 9

Fantastic display from the captain, a colossus in defence. His injury only let him down once when conceding a free kick on the edge of the area against Mori. Strong tackling but even more importantly read the attacking play of the Glory brilliantly.



JADE NORTH: 7

Good defending on Damien Mori throughout the match although he escaped his grasp on a couple of occasions. He and Mori tussled in the box in the last couple of minutes but referee Shield saw nothing in it.



JEREMY HARRIS: 7

Strong intelligent play up front. He had limited opportunities but his strong play was always a menace for the Glory defence. In the second half came back to defend which was inspirational for teammates around him.



PAUL KOHLER: 7

Strong in defence when called upon. He tackled well and his clearances were excellent. Even in the times when under pressure he distributed the ball well.



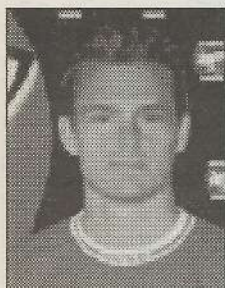
WAYNE SHROJ: 7

Terrific game in Troy Halpin's would be position. He was very involved in defence and attack and displayed a maturity well beyond his years. Was aggressive when called upon to be, especially against the over aggressive Edgar Junior.



ANTE MILICIC: 7

Was quiet through the game but it was obvious when he was involved that he wanted to make up for his previous grand final experience. Milicic scored a brilliant goal and it was his lead up work that led to it as well. He also showed his experience by slowing the game down in the final quarter of the match.



ANDREW PACKER: 9

His lack of experience was not seen at all as he outshone Matt Horsley down his flank. His shots, whilst not dangerous, were on target and caused a few Perth hearts to flutter temporarily. He also defended strongly and blocked one shot from Bobby Despotovski that may have hit the back of the net.



SUB:

DYLAN MCALLISTER: 6
Involved when he came on but played in a position he would not have been used to.



GREG OWENS: 7

He tried to be involved but was not always effective. He had some nice smaller runs with the ball but they were limited to that. He did play his part in the goal though with a nice run off the ball and although the pass back was not the best it turned into magic!



SUB:

HIROYUKI ISHIDA: 6
Put in a great tackle on Alistair Edwards to stop an attacking raid. Was involved quite a lot in the ten minutes he was out there.



LINDSAY WILSON: 6

Had quite a few runs down the flank but his crosses were poor. At the end he was often making poor final choices with the ball.



SUB:

STEVE LAYBUTT: 6
Got on for the final minute.



JASON PETKOVIC: 7

Not a lot he could do about the goal. Apart from that he was fairly faultless between the sticks although his distribution sometimes let him down.



BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI: 6

Ran hard all day all over the pitch. In the end though he really only had half chances at goal. Lucky to be on the pitch after a very poor challenge on Ante Milicic early in the match.



JAMIE HARNWELL: 5

Quiet game and even when he got a lot of room in the final period of the match he did not use it well enough.



DAMIEN MORI: 7

Ran strongly off and on the ball and was exceptionally dangerous in the first half. Mori had some chances with which he would expect himself to do better. He was quieter in the second half although stepped up again in the final minutes of play but in the end his header that hit the bar was the closest he got.



MATT HORSLEY: 6

Horsley yet again never gave up and despite not getting the better of Andy Packer on the flank had opportunities in the centre of the ground. Almost got his head to a cross and also made one or two freakish attempts on goal. Made some mistakes in defence, which led to Olympic chances.



DAVID TARKA: 6

Made a couple of bad challenges on Milicic but apart from that was strong in defence. In the end came forward and put some nice crosses in but it was not enough.



SHANE PRYCE: 8

Good defending early and then when Perth got on top again Pryce was the instigator of quite a few attacks. His crosses were good in the second half and add to that quality defending once more and Pryce had a great game in a losing team.



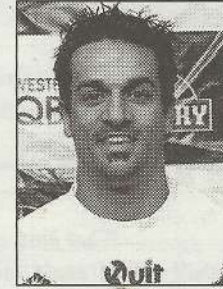
EDGAR JUNIOR: 5

Over aggression in midfield seemed to stop Junior playing as well as he could. In the end he was not heavily involved and gave away some silly free kicks. Did make one or two good contributions so the game was not a complete write off.



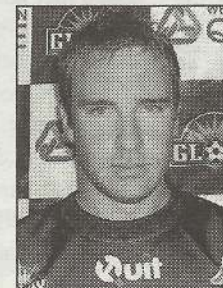
SCOTT MILLER: 7

Made some nice runs and good passing play. He read the play well in attack and defence and made some telling runs in the second half.



GARY FARIA: 7

Very involved and made some threatening runs to the edge of the Sharks area. These runs however were not often productive as the final ball often disappointed. Continued making good runs in the second half but they were only seeing-half chances occur on the end of them.



BRAD HASSELL: 6

Quieter in attack in this match although strong in defence. He tried to get much more involved in the second period but in the end his defence was more noteworthy than his attack.



SUB:

NICK MRDJA: 6
When he first came on made an impact but over the last few minutes could do nothing to change the direction of the game.



SUB:

ALISTAIR EDWARDS: 6
Last appearance in the NSL and the only man to have scored the winning goal for Olympic in a grand final before this match. Edwards made a couple of good runs and looked dangerous but his involvements was not enough.



REFEREE:

MARK SHIELD: 8
Good game overall, did not let the crowd intimidate him.

ONE ON ONE WITH LEON GARDIKIOTIS



Leon Gardikiotis

ABSW recently caught up with the former Canberra Cosmos and Tahiti National Team Coach, Leon Gardikiotis.

Leon is one of the new breed of talented National League level professional coaches, who has been exposed in various facets of elite football worldwide.

Leon the Australian football public remembers you as the last NSL Coach of the Canberra Cosmos! How do you feel about the outcome?

Firstly it is very sad that the Nations capital does not have representation in the NSL and secondly it was heartbreaking for the players, myself and certain people at the club who we worked very hard in putting together a competitive team in such a short time.

Do you feel let down?

Yes, by the manner the whole matter was handled and that

was demonstrated by the fact the team was eliminated from the NSL with only 8 days before the season commenced. Obviously no one took into account the impact it would have on the lives of the players, coaching staff, etc, plus the development of football in Canberra.

What kind of season on the field could the Cosmos have had, if they had participated?

I believe a good season; we would have been knocking on the door of the top six, because with a week to go we had assembled a good mixture of youth and experience players, including foreigners.

The potential of the team was demonstrated in our one and only official friendly match against an NSL team - South Melbourne, where we matched them in all departments for the entire match.

We have been informed that

you had a big influence in getting the French National Team in coming to Australia, tell us about that?

It all started via the relationship I had developed with certain gentlemen from Tahiti and with senior members of the French National Team while I was the National Coach of Tahiti. From there it was a matter of being the liaison person in putting the deal together between IEC who demonstrated the willingness and financial capacity to be the promoters and the French Football Federation.

You have had the opportunity in having being the closest man (Liaison officer) to the French National Team, Manchester United and the Brazilian Olympic Team. Describe the experience?

Even though I have played professional football abroad and I have been exposed to the elite level before, it was an amazing experience to be eating, sleeping, on the bus and at training with the best players in the world. It also gave me the opportunity from a coach's perspective to see first hand how the Management of these teams handled super star players and their total preparation for a game.

Over the years you have met with some of the top coaches and administrators in the world.

Can you mention a few?

Roger Lemerre, Henri Emile, Arsene Wenger, Gerrard Houliher, Prof. Espezim Neto, Julio Cesar Leal, Joseph S. Blatter, Carlos Alberto Periera and others.

As a young player you were a 1st team squad player with NSL clubs St. George and Sydney Olympic in the early to mid 80's, before you went overseas and turned professional.

What is your advice to young Australian players looking for a career abroad?

It is the dream of all young players to play abroad and they should never stop striving to achieve their objective if they believe they are good enough.

believe much was achieved in reference to putting in place a professional structure which included, planning for international competition, methodology of training, team preparation, staff education, etc, but most importantly a team that was

express all the knowledge I have acquired from my coaching education overseas.

Long term I would want to try my luck in Europe but that may happen sooner rather than later due to the limited opportunities available to coach at the



Leon catches up with French National coach Roger Lemerre.

However unless they are prepared to accept difficult psychological times and conditions, sacrifices, loneliness, and foreign lands that some times can be cruel to a young player, my advice is spend a few years in the NSL first and make sure you are receiving the right advice and guidance by people that have experienced professional football.

You have received coaching qualifications and education in Brazil, Germany and Australia. How do our coaching education programs compare?

I believe Jim Selby has done a good job in creating the National coaching scheme and some of the programs he has implemented.

However the biggest difference is that in all levels of coaching education in most of the advanced football nations, they have internationally experienced and recognised instructors.

Here in Australia we do not have this luxury. Eg I have had the pleasure of being instructed and educated by such people as Julio Cesar Leal, Sebastian Lazaroni, Carlos Alberto Periera.

The Tahiti experience and development of football in the Oceania region?

To have been one of only 200 National Coaches around the world was an honour and a privilege.

In my 8 month stay as National Coach of Tahiti I

playing technical football, with discipline and structure in its game plan.

The Oceania region has improved a great deal over the last few years, you only have to look at the results of some of the nations.

However it will probably be another decade before they can be a consistent threat to Australia and that is due to the lack of finances, structure and personnel.

What are your immediate and long-term coaching ambitions?

To be given the opportunity to establish myself as a coach in the Australian National League, therefore being in a position to

top level in Australia.

What is your opinion on the future of the National League?

For the National League to be successful we first must get our marketing, TV and the general media structure correct. To have a true national competition we must have 12 - 14 teams, which will represent all the states and major cities.

Finally I believe we should copy to a certain degree the Japanese and have major organizations involved and owning a club, eg Toyota or financially independent individuals who can guarantee a figure between 3-5 million dollars per year for at least 5 years.



Gardikiotis mingling with one of the world's greatest players, Zinedine Zidane.



Leon shown here with Arsenal's victorious coach Arsene Wenger.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

WORLD CUP WONDERS

Frank Farina, Mark Shield, Andrew Orsatti, Meno Toutsidis and Des Flavel are all set to soak up the glorious World Cup 2002 atmosphere in Korea/Japan.

Socceroo coach Farina will be there on a fact-finding mission dissecting tactics for future international challenges.

Young Orsatti will get up close and personal with the natives as he files his reports for the SBS Television network.

Mark Shield will out to prove that we Aussies can pick out an illegal tackle with the best of the whistle blowers, while the Adelaide Advertiser soccer writer, Toutsidis, who has watched every World Cup finals campaign since he was old enough to travel, will continue the tradition.



Frank Farina: Socceroo coach off to the World Cup on a fact-finding mission.

And, another South Australian, Flavel is the trailblazer of the group, because he already has unpacked his bags in Korea gearing to play his part in bringing television pictures to an estimated world wide audience of 42 billion.

The veteran television producer is one of half a dozen men hand picked from around the globe to manage this massive task.

Flavel will be based in Suwon, a 43,000 stadium 40km south of the South Korean capital of Seoul.

This, yours truly, ABSW correspondent had the immense pleasure of working with Flavel during the 2000 Olympic Football tournament conducted at Hindmarsh Stadium.

His work ethic and attention to every minute detail cannot help but impress and inspire.

This is his second trip to Korea, having been there originally five years ago when he inspected a video screen being tested for Adelaide's Aussie rules home base of Football Park.

"To be going back there for this event is unbelievable," Flavel said. "You have to be excited about being involved in the

biggest sporting event in the world."

His timing during the Hindmarsh Stadium tournament was fine-tuned to the second as he ensured the smooth running of every one of the six preliminary games and the quarterfinal.

"I have to imagine every potential problem and make sure that they just don't happen. Everything must be right."

We are sure that will indeed be the case as we await the precision arrival of the FIFA Fair Play flag and the introduction of the teams before the presentation of the national anthems.

With "Dashing Des" Flavel calling the shots, there are sure to be no problems.

Meanwhile, if you dear reader are also going to the biggest show on turf, sorry you missed a mention, but I was unaware of your wealthy situation.

SA READY TO UPSET NSW

When SA clashes with NSW in the Fasta Pasta Centenary Challenge at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday night (May 18) from 7pm, anything less than a NSW victory would be classified as a huge upset.

That's because SA has managed just one win over NSW in interstate combat and that was back in 1963 when SA won 3-2 at home.

NSW holds sway with eight wins and two draws, while SA boasts that single triumph.

During the process of domination, NSW netted 42 goals, while SA scored just 15.

SA coach Mike Barnett is dedicated towards redressing that imbalance and is convinced he has just the right blend of experience and youthful talent to tip over the form cart.

The 'Croweaters' began SA's 100-year celebrations in fine style by playing Western Australia off the park with a dominant scoreless draw, thanks to a magnificent match-saving display from visiting goalkeeper Cory Hugo.

This time, SA has Melta Medal winners Corey Artone and Lachlan Campbell returning from injury to bolster its chances.

The State squad prepared for the big



Glenn Sprod: Will skipper the NSW State side against the 'Croweaters'. Michael Brooks: Former Adelaide City star will be hoping for a South Australian win.

game by conducting a massive schools coaching clinic at Hindmarsh Stadium last Monday before training on the pristine pitch.

The SASF demonstrated the importance it places on the revived interstate format by staging the SA-NSW match as

an almost stand-alone fixture.

Most of the round 10 Premier League and State League games normally scheduled for Saturday play were transferred to the Monday holiday (May 20).

The exceptions to the single fixture concept are the West End Federation Cup quarter-final game between Adelaide City and Croydon Kings that will be played as a 4pm curtain raiser to the interstate match and the northern areas derby featuring Northern Demons and Port Pirie City to be played on Sunday (May 19).

NSW, coached by former Australian goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse, has named a powerful squad that includes former Newcastle United Captain Glenn Sprod.

The NSW travelling party is: Jason Holmes, Sasha Utjesenovic, Vuko Tomasevic, Tayfun Devrimol, Robbie Angievski, Glenn Sprod, Greg Collins, Alan Picken, Mark Hoenselaars, Jason Scibberas, Daniel Cummins, David Gardiner, Matthew Borg, Stewart Van Bentum, Jim Bakis, Darren Moore.

The final SA squad of 18 will be chosen from the following: Corey Artone, Sam Barbaro, Michael Brooks, Lachlan Campbell, Rick Cerracchio, Daniel Ferreira, Marcin Kierno, Robert Matosevic, Daniel Menechella, Bill Misailidis, Ben Moore, Ryan Moore, Jamie Perin, Rick Piotrowski, Michael Pirone, Frank Sergi, Barney Smith, Jason Trimboli, George Tsonis, Aaron Westervelt, Mark Yates.

SA's desire to succeed is backed by a supportive federation and a generous sponsorship from Fasta Pasta. All that is required to ice the Centenary cake is a huge Saturday night crowd prepared to roar its throats raw to will its team to a famous victory.

SA v NSW RECORD

1932: In Newcastle NSW 4, SA 1
1932: In Sydney NSW 6, SA 1
1936: In Adelaide NSW 6, SA 0
1952: In Melbourne NSW 6, SA 1
1954: In Adelaide NSW 6, SA 1
1960: In Melbourne NSW 3, SA 2
1961: In Adelaide SA 2, NSW 2
1962: In Sydney NSW 1, SA 1
1963: In Adelaide SA 3, NSW 2
1972: In Adelaide NSW 3, SA 1
1994: In Adelaide NSW 3, SA 2

CHANGES AFOOT

Watch for some startling big name signing's shortly among some of the more ambitious SA Premier League clubs.

One such change is certain to be ace striker Greg Hagias, who is in dispute with Adelaide Galaxy.

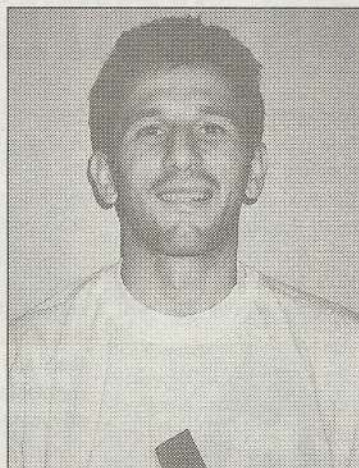
Rival clubs, no doubt recalling the Hagias four-goal haul for Galaxy against Adelaide City in a round one rout, queued in large numbers for his services when Hagias made his feelings public.

GREAT OCCASIONS

Two big occasions are to be celebrated on Saturday, May 25 the Milan Ivanovic Testimonial dinner and the Adelaide Croatia 50th Anniversary dinner.

The tribute to magnificent Milan will be held at the Italian Centre, 262 Carrington Street, Adelaide. Bookings for the bash are filling rapidly, but late comers for the flashing cutlery evening at \$75 for a three-course meal, wine and soft drinks, should contact Aggie Simeone on 0418.826.252.

Adelaide Croatia Centre at Gepps Cross is the venue to see the birthday cake with 50 candles as the proud club that spawned Australian internationals Billy Graham, Jimmy McCabe, Charlie Welker, Jakka Banovic and the late Charlie Perkins, honours its history.



Milan Ivanovic: The Adelaide City great will be given a Testimonial dinner.

Past players from all five decades will be in attendance to recall four first division championships and seven Federation Cup victories.

ROUGH LUCK

South Australian Institute of Sport graduates, Russell Waller, Terry Smith and Evan Metanomski have hard luck stories to relate.



Russell Waller: SASI graduate has returned home from his overseas trials and will be out for eight months due to a knee reconstruction. Terry Smith: The former U17 Joey striker faces a setback with knee surgery however will be returning to England for further trials.

The trio has all been forced to place overseas ventures on hold to undergo surgery.

Waller returned home to Adelaide from trials with Darlington to undergo a complete knee reconstruction that will sideline him for eight months.

Striker Smith also had knee surgery, but intends to return to England for trials, while Metanomski had a groin operation at home and after recovery, will go back to Portugal for further trials.

ROUND 9

PREMIER LEAGUE

Galaxy 2 (Goutzioulos, Imaia) Campbelltown City 0. Best Galaxy: Imaia, Pezos, Westervelt; Campbelltown: Campbell, DeGiovanniello, Parry.

Adelaide City 3 (Sareceno 2, Deegan) Raiders 3 (Widera, Cerracchio, tog). Best Adelaide City: Lastella, Sareceno, Carter; Raiders: Kuzman, S. Barbaro, D. Menechella.

Blue Eagles 1 (Brooks) White City Woodville 0. Best Blue Eagles: Zito, DeLucia, Deleso; White City: Bernadino, M. Menechella, Beltrame.

Metro Stars 1 (Day) Modbury Jets 1 (McDonald). Best Metro Stars: Day, David Menechella, Lucchesi; Modbury Jets: Aitken, Kelly, McDonald.

Pirates 1 (Smith) Olympic FC 6 (Demourtzidis 2, Parisos 2, Salapapadis). Best Pirates: Lagana, Vollis, Chitti; Olympic: Salapapadis, Tosh, Tsoukalas.



George Goutzioulos: Former Kingz star opened the scoring for the Galaxy. Elias Demourtzidis: Former Olympic Sharks star scored a brace in Adelaide Olympic's 6-1 romp over the Pirates.

Para Hills Knights 0, Playford Patriots 0. Best Para Hills: Keens, Moore, Jones; Playford Patriots: Pearce, Perry, Miller.

STATE LEAGUE

Panthers 1 (Murphy) Noarlunga Bulldogs 2 (Forester, Fox). Best Panthers: Travis, Bourke, S. Huybregts; Noarlunga: Still, Sephton, Longshaw.

Salisbury Berries 1 (McKenna) Northern Demons 0. Best Salisbury: Arruzolo, McKenna, Blackwood; Northern Demons: Nichol, Fasciano, Pisani.

ABSW's SA correspondent Allan Crisp, Soccer Promoter Angelo Picca, Channel 10 Sports Presenter, Robbie Popplestone, West Beach coach Peter Millar and SBS On The Ball anchorman, Kyle Patterson can be heard on the 1197 RPH Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international John Perin, SA captain and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks and The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis join Crisp for the 1197 RPH "SOS" Soccer On Sunday program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest overseas and local scores will be aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.

Letters to the Editor

NATIONAL COMPETITION MUST BE SORTED

Dear Sir,

Once again Soccer Australia has proved to be the directionally challenged governing body, hampering the progression of soccer in this country. Their postponement of the much-needed reforms of the NSL could be the fatal blow that this national competition does not recover from.

What makes this recent decision worse is the fact that all involved within Soccer Australia recognise that the make-up of the game needs to change. Many including both Ian Knop and Remo Nogarotto have publicly expressed a desire to change the game. Then why don't they do it immediately rather than putting it off till June?

If the reforms are at all undertaken in June, the remaining National League clubs will have only four months to align with the changes. That time frame is not sufficient if major changes are going to take place.

It may serve only to weaken the

already fledging clubs of the competition beyond a state of repair and something that was meant to be for the good of the game in fact becomes its deathblow.

Soccer Australia must take affirmative action and put a stop to postponing actions that will



improve the health of the game in this country. The reason why they now face such a big hurdle in reshaping the National League is because they refused to address the little problems at the most immediate time.

These problems have now built up to a point where they have

become so daunting that Soccer Australia does not have the capacity to ability to face them, let alone take the big step in altering these problems.

Soccer Australia, pick up your game if you want this national competition to survive. Or have you already heard the bell toll for thee and rather than fight the inevitable you will simply go quietly into the night.

Shawn Kempton,
Regents Park, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The restructure won't be known until late June when S.A. will put forward a new model for the league. The best solution would be if the league itself is cut to 12, that way no one will have the problem of a bye. This means axing a club, one that can't fair with the league financially. Or, adding another side making it 14, having the luxury of choosing either the Melbourne Dragons, Brisbane Lions or Adelaide Galaxy.

SOUTH MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY UNITED ON THE RIGHT TRACK!



Dear Sir,

The recent appointment of both Steve Blair as General Manager of South Melbourne and John Radman to the Sydney United post, is a very positive step from both clubs I believe.

While both have extensive knowledge in the field of business, one essential thing makes the appointment both clever and innovative. Both men were involved with the club previously as players during their glory years. They have seen the heights that their clubs have scaled, experienced the on field and off field successes and are intent on bringing such achievements back to their clubs.

While South Melbourne have had a good few years representing Australia at the World Club Challenge and performing outstandingly at this, Mr Blair is right in suggesting that the gloss and fear of the South Melbourne club has been lost. There was a time in the playing days of Steve Blair that South were the most feared team in the whole of this country. To an extent this has been lost and Mr Blair is right in saying that he wants to bring this back.

John Radman as Sydney United's acting General Manager has taken the same mentality and committed Sydney United's future to the National Soccer

League. In the past the fate of United has been on a day-to-day basis with often their role in the NSL decided at the 11th hour. Now however the club has a definite direction that can be worked towards and hopefully achieved.

He too was in a team that experienced the glamour at the top of the NSL so again he can draw on these past experiences and use them to bring success back to the club.

So while the governing body-Soccer Australia continues to struggle in appointment affirmative people for vital administrative roles, South Melbourne and Sydney United have taken very positive steps for the directions of their clubs in appointment business-minded people with a passion for soccer and more importantly for their club.

Steve Van Vorden,
Bulli, NSW.

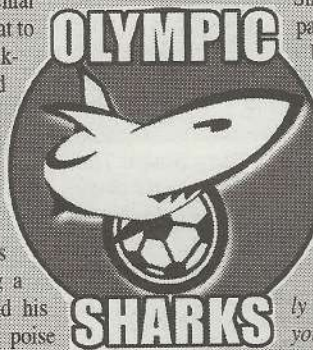
EDITOR'S NOTE: Both South Melbourne and Sydney United are looking towards the future and that future is having a strong administration as well as a formidable lineup. Both clubs have shown signs that a few problems are lurking beneath the team however hiring new people is always a good sign of out with the old and in with the new.

THE SHARKS SHOWED TRUE CHARACTER

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment about the Olympic Sharks. After beating Newcastle United in front of a crowd of 17,000 largely parochial United supporters I would say that to many they have done the unthinkable by making it to the grand final.

Sunday's game proved to me that they have the character to hold firm in the face of great challenge and pressure. In the space of 50 minutes three players had been lost to injury forcing a reshuffle that Gary Phillips and his players did so with the utmost poise and conviction and in doing so ground out an outstanding win.



While the result of the grand final will be known by next week and the immediacy of this letter lost, I would like to say that up till now the Olympic Sharks have done an outstanding job. In particular their game against Newcastle United proved that they are not only a classy team but also a gutsy team.

Michael Tambakis,
Bondi, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sharks showed tremendous character in front of a hostile 17 plus thousand supporters up at Newcastle especially with a wounded squad. Phillips' young brigade showed a lot of class and commitment as they took it to the home side against all odds.

TOP AUSSIES ABROAD COVERAGE

Dear Sir,

I have been impressed of late with your new section on Aussies Abroad. It is in depth, with a lot of research and strays away from the traditional English coverage that has been the norm previously.

Many soccer followers are very interested in how particularly the younger or less known Aussies are fairing overseas.

We have a great number and often in the mainstream media the attentions are focused on the big three of Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton and little or no coverage is reserved for the many players who week in week out play in the various leagues of Europe with great success.

I would very much like to see a continuation of such pages in the off-season because Aussies overseas are just as active then as they are now. I would

like to be kept up to date, so come the start of next season I will be well informed as to where the vast number of Aussie players are.

Congratulations Binesh Mudaliar. Keep up the good work.

Damien Pisaro,
St Peters, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Aussie's Abroad was a new idea brought into the paper as many Australians are playing their trade overseas and many people want to find out what is happening i.e. their progress.

Binesh Mudaliar was the first person in Australia ever to incorporate Australians overseas, many have tried to copy the same model Binesh started, however have failed with not enough coverage on each player. Glad to see your enjoying the page!

WHAT'S THE FUSS OVER A YELLOW CARD?

Dear Sir,

I am appalled to have read in last week's media reports about Olympic Sharks player Andrew Durante getting an unfair go about the yellow card he received.

It is true that it's tough for a young player to miss out on the final, however you can't change what happened.

The young player did waste time as he spent fussing about with the ball so the referee had no alternative but to show the card.

This incident will probably make the young Sharks defender think twice before wanting to time waste with the ball again.

Paul Sorenti
Balmain, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was quite unfortunate to see

young Andrew receive a card that ultimately led to his absence in the recent Grand-Final. It was a similar case to Brett Emerton when the Socceroo picked up a yellow card for time wasting when in actual fact was told by the linesman to move the ball in its correct place. It cost 'Emo' a spot in the sides UEFA Cup final, a tragic moment for any footballer. At 20, Andrew still has plenty of time until another final turns up where he hopefully will be apart of.



DISPICABLE LACK OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Dear Sir,

I would like to portray my dismay at the actions of the Mt. Pritchard Soccer Club following the Ryde City V Mt. Pritchard Round 5 clash in the under 11s Cadet League Division 1.

The nine, ten and eleven year old players were denied the opportunity to play their match, as it seems one or two officials decided that three points was the objective of a Cadet League encounter and not the development and enjoyment of young children.

Unfortunately, the identification cards were left in Ryde, a 50 minute drive away. The unfortunate oversight was realized before the kick off and the cards were being brought immediately by the brother of Ryde

City's coach. They arrived before what would have been half time.

Identification cards are to be produced at the start of a match, but surely this has occurred before and both parties agreed that it was OK to proceed.

Furthermore a completed team sheet from the week before could have been produced with the 1d numbers and checked soon after.

Both sets of players voiced their wish to play, but Mt. Pritchard decided not to play and didn't even afford the consolation of a trial match, the parents and their boys had to make the long return journey.

What does this say about our code when three points at Cadet level, which plays no part in determining promotion or relegation, is

the ultimate objective. This is a bold statement that cries 'win at all costs'.

M. Caulfield
Nth Ryde, NSW

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is truly a shame that such young children could not proceed with their arranged fixture. This incident is not the type of advertising that soccer in this country needs.

Sure it is in the rules that Mt. Pritchard can deny the commencement of the tie, but when parents pay large amounts of money and then travel long distances and can't watch their sons play due to a very easy mistake to make, then it is very sad indeed.



Queensland Lions Soccer Club

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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UP

By Glenn Davis

North Star has emerged as the giant killers of the Queensland premier league with another goal scoring spree in a 4-1 win over Wynnum at O'Callaghan Park on Sunday.

A hatrick from striker Shaun Blackman guided North Star to its four consecutive win that helped leapfrogged the club into fourth place for the first time this season.

North Star were one of Brisbane's strongest clubs in the late 1980's but were relegated to the semi-professional ranks when the club hit a financial pot-hole.



Reece Tollenaere: Queensland Lions star grabbed the side's first goal.

After gaining promotion this year, North Star have rallied under the guidance of coach Bobby Hamilton, who steered Brisbane City to several premiership and grand final successes.

Hamilton believes his sides recent wins have come from self-belief and little more.

"We've had a couple of good results go our way lately but I think it's just that the boys have got ridden of any apprehension they had playing in this league and have started to believe in themselves," Hamilton said.

Many tipped North Star would struggle to stay in the premier league at the start of the season but after eight games, the club is sitting in fourth place on 17 points just three points behind Brisbane City.

Brisbane City had a 3-1 win over Taringa Rovers at Jack Speare Park on Sunday night.

North Star, who has scored 14 goals in its past four wins, led 1-nil when Barry Browett headed home a cross from Damien Tune from close range.

Blackman got the first of his hatrick to give his side a 2-nil lead at halftime when he tapped in after a cross struck the underside of the crossbar.

Blackman picked up his second when he raced onto a ball on the edge of the area and drilled home a well taken shot while his third came from a delicate chip inside the area midway through the second half.

"It's a good result but there'll be a reality check next week when we play Brisbane City away," Hamilton said.

"We're only three points off Brisbane City who are second on the

table and we're hoping to build on our momentum."

Brisbane City coach Frank Pimblett won't be taking North Star easy next weekend despite their victory over Taringa.

Brisbane City got off to a good start and for the first time this season went in at halftime with goals on the board.

City opened the scoring in the 25th minute when Taringa keeper Mal Van de Graf failed to hold a Damien Waugh corner enabling Barry Wilkinson to blast home.

Striker Glen Kolpak put the visitors ahead 2-nil ten minutes later with the first of a double, drilling home a low cross from Robbie Kidd on the right flank.

Kolpak grabbed his second on the break close to fulltime but in a major disappointment for Pimblett, Brisbane City failed to keep a blank score sheet when midfielder Craig Collins drove home from 25 metres for an injury-time goal from Taringa.

"It was disappointing to concede that late goal and it tainted the win a bit," Pimblett said.

"But on a personal note I'm very happy to win at Taringa as over the years I've had an abysmal record there.

"Taringa are not a bad side. They're very sharp and Craig Collins is always a handful and they've got some quality players like Daryl Hathaway."

Pimblett also was pleased with the attitude his players took into the game after their 6-nil thrashing of The Gap the previous round.

"It was a soft win against The Gap but we started with the right attitude and got off to a good start," Pimblett said.

"It was one of the few games when we've scored in the first half all year."

Taringa coach John Ogden was far from disappointed with his team's effort.

"The game was played at a frantic pace and we had at least three chances to score in the box and didn't get a foot to the ball," Ogden said.

"We're playing well and creating chances but not finishing off."

At Bundamba, Ipswich Knights stayed sixth with an upset 3-nil win over third placed Wynnum.

Striker Matt Hilli celebrated his first game back from injury this year with a double as the home side raced to a 3-nil lead at the break.

Hilli, who has come off the bench twice in previous matches, put the Knights ahead after only five minutes with a powerful 30 metres shot.

He then made an angled run from five metres inside Wynnum's half before eventually chipping home in the 20th minute while Stu Drinkeld tucked home the third from the penalty spot after Hilli's brother Richard was felled in the box.

Coach Andy Ogden believed the result was critical for the side's finals prospects later in the year.

"It was like chalk and cheese compared to our 4-1 loss to North Star last week and it keeps us in touch with the other teams vying for the finals," Ogden said.

"It's really important now that we get a result in our next game against Easts."

Mt. Gravatt coach Jarrod Austin had no excuses after the Hawks suffered a 5-1 defeat to the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast led 2-1 at half time following goals from Adem Poric and Neil Ferguson and a reply from Russell Woodruff but the turning point came when Mr. Gravatt's Brett Jones brought down Lee Vernon in the box in the 70th minute.

Poric made no mistake with the penalty for a 3-1 lead before Gold Coast midfielder Mark Bennett finished off with two goals on the breakaway to give him four goals in the past two matches.

"The turning point was the penalty. It was a silly challenge on Vernon as he was going nowhere," said Austiäre in the game until then but after the penalty the game opened up and they finished up with three goals in 15 minutes.

"I thought we battled hard but the Gold Coast are a quality side and were always a level above us."

A young Rochedale Rovers made leaders Queensland Lions fight all the way before going down 2-1 at Lions Stadium on Sunday evening.

Lions led 1-nil at the break after Reece Tollenaere continued his recent solid form but the visitors drew level in a spirited fightback after the break.

Lions' winner came ten minutes from time when Matt Olley volleyed home a Steve Dawe cross.

Lions' coach Miron Bleiberg paid tribute to Rochedale's spirit but it was a game the home side should have won easily.

"We attacked and attacked and I don't think they got a corner the whole game," Bleiberg said.

"They are a very young side but they didn't attempt to do anything until late in the game."

"We dominated so much it could have been 10-1."

In a game of two halves Toowoomba and relegation favourites The Gap



Bobby Hamilton: North Star's victorious coach after his side smashed Wynnum for four.

played out a 2-all draw at Toowoomba on Saturday night.

The Gap, missing five regular first team players, trailed by two goals at the break after strikes from Nick Thomas and Gary Freir before former national league midfielder Alun Evans replied from a free kick and the penalty spot after the break.

"It was a good result for us considering we had five players missing," said coach Ashley Hempstead.

"They were better in the first half and we got on top in the second and in the end we probably could have won had we not missed a couple of easy chances."

"Well have Nathan Worling back from suspension for our next game and Scott Elliott might be back in another two weeks."

Hempstead believes the next month will be crucial to the club's hopes of premier league survival.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Round 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Queensland Lions	8	8	0	0	22	3	24
Brisbane City	8	6	1	1	20	10	19
Gold Coast City	8	5	1	2	24	9	17
North Star	8	5	2	1	17	9	16
Wynnum	8	5	3	0	11	11	5
IPSW Knights	8	3	2	3	19	12	2
Eastern Suburbs	8	2	4	2	10	16	8
Taringa Rovers	8	2	5	1	8	14	7
Mt Gravatt	8	1	5	2	7	23	5
T'wmba Raiders	8	0	4	4	9	15	4
Rochedale Rov	8	0	5	3	10	19	3
The Gap	8	0	5	3	6	22	3

ROUND 7 RESULTS

Queensland Lions	2	Rochedale Rovers	1
IPSW Knights	3	Wynnum	0
Brisbane City	3	Taringa Rovers	1
Gold Coast City	5	Mt Gravatt	1
North Star	4	Eastern Suburbs	0
The Gap	2	T'wmba Raiders	2

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 9 ◆

Friday 17th May
Mt Gravatt v Queensland Lions 8.00pm

Saturday 18th May
Brisbane City v North Star 7.00pm
T'wmba Raiders v Taringa Rovers 7.00pm
Wynnum v Gold Coast City 7.00pm

Sunday 19th May
Eastern Suburbs v IPSW Knights 3.00pm
Rochedale Rovers v The Gap 6.00pm

VPL OFFERS NOT FAVOURITES

By Bert van Bedaf

At the halfway mark (11 rounds), the Victorian Premier League might have a few front runners, what it doesn't have is a title favourite.

Green Gully, Bentleigh Greens, Fawkner, Altona East and Port Melbourne

have been occupying the top five positions during most of the first half of the season, but the Whittlesea Stallions and Preston Lions are putting pressure of fourth and fifth spots.

Altona Magic, Fitzroy City and St Albans are hovering dangerously close to the relegation zone, while Heidelberg United and Bulleen Zebras already are up their necks in the mire.

There is no air of invincibility about any side. Although Bentleigh has only lost once, it drew five times. Green Gully hoped to finish on top halfway, but copped two losses in succession.

Fawkner and Altona East also lost twice. Port Melbourne hasn't been the creative and exuberant side it was last season and suffered three losses.

Last year's minor premier and losing grand finalist will need to improve substantially not to tumble out of the finals race.

The revelation of the season has been Whittlesea. The Stallions are overtly naive and can fumble badly in defence, but they have good forward thrust and an outstanding work ethic that has seen them do so well in their first VPL season.

Preston is slowly emerging from an



Vlado Vanis: Heidelberg head coach leading a Bergers fight-back.

early season slump and gradually climbing the ladder. The Lions aren't exactly roaring, but they are gaining confidence and again becoming hungry for success.

The other VPL newcomer, Fitzroy City is finding the going much tougher than the Stallions. The Roys don't have the financial power that is backing the Stallions and their perennial infighting may be their downfall at the end of the season.

St Albans has not been hugely competitive since its losing grand final in 1998. The club produces plenty of talent but it seems unable to harness the skills into a cohesive team.

The usual coaching changes have added their customary spice to the mix. Preston lost Doug Hodgson and is doing better under Vlade Torteviski.

Heidelberg parted with Peter Ollerton

and Vlado Vanis is galvanizing a Berger fight-back. Fitzroy said good bye to Dragan Blazeski and hopes to do better under Hodgson and Joe Mullen stepped down at Bulleen to make way for Ollerton.

Altona, Heidelberg and Bulleen are continuing to astound fans, spectators and observers. With more than a handful of titles between them, former and defending champions are standing at the edge of the abyss.

It demonstrates the fickleness of sport, the thin line between success and failure.

Altona won the league three times between 1995 and 1997. Bulleen last won the title in 1998 and Heidelberg is the defending champion. It seems inconceivable that any one of them might be relegated from the top flight.

BLUES GRAB PRICELESS WIN

By Sean Callander

Fawkner grabbed a priceless three points with a 1-0 win over an undermanned Fitzroy City in an entertaining Victorian Premier League clash at Ross Reserve in Noble Park on Saturday.

Joe Biskie's side will not earn too many points more valuable this season.

The home side had the better chances of the first half with a piece of Henry Fa'arodo brilliance required the break the deadlock.

The lively forward danced through the City defence before beating Bojo Ievdjic at his near post in the 63rd minute.

But the Roys could easily have been one-up by that point as claims for a handball were turned down less than 30 seconds after the opening whistle.

With Denis Yukic (suspension) and last week's goal scoring hero

Jason Dimozantos (knee) unavailable, City's chances tumbled after 30 minutes when Zlatko Mijhalovic left the field with a hamstring injury.

But Fawkner was unable to capitalize with Fitzroy's Drew Laurence dispatching the best chance of the half over the bar after a deep Michael Bosesvski cross.

The running of Laurence and Paul Burne on the flanks kept the Blues defence on its toes but the home side was clearly lacking a target man up front as Steve Tilovski was barely troubled in the Fawkner goal.

However, the keeper was beaten by an Iain Callaghan header in the 77th minute. But Robert Stojcevski was ideally positioned at the back-post and booted the ball to safety.

A twist was added to the match when Steve Panebianco, already on a yellow card, was substituted by Coach Joe Biskie. His slow progress to the bench was deemed time wasting and the second yellow card reduced the Blues to 10 men. But the visitors comfortably survived the last 10 minutes to bag the points.

OLLERTON SUCCEEDS MULLEN AT BULLEEN

By Bradley Thomas

Joe Mullen was axed as coach of Bulleen last week after a disastrous start to the club's Victorian Premier League season. In a savage reaction to the Zebras' 5-2 loss to Port Melbourne on last week, the Bulleen committee had sacked Mullen and appointed a replacement within 12 hours.

Former Heidelberg coach Peter Ollerton has taken the reins in a bid to lift Bulleen out of relegation territory.

A shattered Mullen said, last week, he would never have a bad word to say about Bulleen.

Only days before Mullen had declined the coaching job at his former NSL club Adelaide City and one of the factors behind his decision

was he felt he had unfinished business at Bulleen.

Mullen added, life was about timing, and although he would love to coach his home club, the timing of this approach wasn't right.

"I have always been prepared to do what is best for the club and if this is what they (Bulleen) see as the best solution, then I support that," Mullen said.

"The way we played on against Port Melbourne was our worst performance during my time there and it couldn't have come at a worse time."

Mullen replaced Alan Davidson midway through the 2000 season and took Bulleen to a third placing last season.

Unfortunately, the club has been injury-plagued and unable to gain a lucky break so far this season, with only one win, it was Mullen who felt the wrath.

A diplomatic Mullen did verbally attack a minority at the club before parting ways.

"One thing this past week has shown me is that a minority has the loudest voice."

He said a small group closely associated with the club had been trying to oust him from the coach's chair for some time. "I guess they got their way so at least they're happy."

Bulleen president Rino Tessarotto was guarded about when the board first considered replacing Mullen.

He said Mullen was fully aware of his precarious situation before the match against the Sharks, although Mullen said the pair never had talks about the stability of his position.

"The loss on Saturday night was a little bit too much," Tessarotto said.

"It seemed like the boys were not together

out on the park.

"Mullen had our full support until what happened against Port."

Tessarotto said the axing was the only option available to the club.

"You can't sack 13 or 14 players. We've always thought this team is a top five team."

Tessarotto added that Mullen was a gentleman and maybe that went against him in the long run.

"Perhaps he has been too good for the boys and let them get away with too much. Maybe they deserve a bastard."

Replacement Ollerton has been associated with the Zebras top job since leaving reigning premiers Heidelberg earlier this season.

Rumour mills have linked his constant presence at Bulleen games, where his son Ryan plays, as an indication he was preparing to take over.

Ollerton said no discussions about the coach's job had taken place until the club phoned last Sunday week.

"There had been plenty of chances for committee members to talk to me because I am often at their games to watch Ryan (Ollerton's son who plays for the Zebras)," Ollerton said.

"I consider Joe a close personal friend and I think the club wanted to be loyal to him."

Ollerton said his immediate task was simple. He had to guide last place Bulleen out of relegation danger. "It is survival at all costs."

"There is no point looking at the Green Gully's or Fawkners' because they've flown the coup. We have to look at who is close by around us."

Ollerton added he'd identified three or four teams he was confident Bulleen would defeat.

"We have to treat each week as a final. There have been games when Bulleen should have won and they're in a false position at the moment."

This is his second stint at Bulleen, after leaving the club midway through the 1996 season.

He had taken the reins at Bulleen, then the Lions, 10 rounds into the 1995 season, with the club in relegation territory.

Under his leadership, the Lions qualified for the finals and almost achieved the unthinkable, losing the grand final 3-2 to Altona Magic.

Ollerton said he left the club on reasonable terms, however, acknowledged that certain people associated with Bulleen then were no longer involved.



Peter Ollerton: New Bulleen coach.



Joe Mullen: Has parted company with the Zebras.

SAINTS DRAW WITHOUT COACH

By Bert van Bedaf

St Albans drew 0-0 with Bentleigh Greens in Victorian Premier League action at home last Sunday after the Saints has suffered a turbulent week.

After coach Zlatko Vega had departed,

the club appointed Ante Vidovic as coach last Wednesday. But Vidovic changed his mind a day later and withdrew his acceptance last Thursday night.

Caretakers for the match against Bentleigh were midfielder Mark Silic and team manager Andrew Gal.

The quick departure of coaches at the Saints had brought the VPL tally to six. Others were Doug Hodgson (Preston), Peter Ollerton (Heidelberg), Dragan Blazeski (Fitzroy City) and Joe Mullen (Bulleen).



VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATS

ROUND 12 RESULTS

FRIDAY, MAY 10 - 8:15 PM

Whittlesea Stallions SC 2 Bulleen Zebras SC 2
(Razov I, Tricarico J) (Rusmir S, Di Iorio J)

SAT, 11 MAY, 3:00 PM

Fitzroy City SC 0 Fawkner Blues SC 1
(Fa'arodo H)

SUN, 12 MAY, 3:00 PM

Port Melb Sharks SC 2 Green Gully Cavaliers SC 0
(Mandic I, Knezevic J)

Heidelberg United SC 3 Altona Magic SC 3
(Georgiadis G, Lazarevski N, Kakos P) (Todorovski Z, Petrevski Z, Mladenovic D)

Altona East Phoenix SC 0 Preston Lions SC 1
(Filipovski I)

St Albans Saints SC 0 Bentleigh Greens SC 0

Bentleigh Greens SC vs. Altona East Phoenix SC
Sun, 19 May, 6:00 PM

Green Gully Cavaliers SC vs. Whittlesea Stallions SC
Mon, 20 May, 8:15 PM

Altona Magic SC vs. Port Melbourne Sharks SC
Bulleen Zebras SC vs. Fitzroy City SC

2002 PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Fawkner Blues SC	12	6	4	2	20	14	22
2. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	12	6	3	3	27	19	21
3. Bentleigh Greens SC	12	5	6	1	18	12	21
4. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	12	6	3	3	13	7	21
5. Altona East Phoenix SC	12	5	4	3	16	12	19
6. Preston Lions SC	12	5	3	4	18	13	18
7. Whittlesea Stallions SC	12	3	7	2	18	20	16
8. Altona Magic SC	12	3	4	5	20	18	13
9. Fitzroy City SC	12	3	3	6	10	14	12
10. St Albans Saints SC	12	3	3	6	7	17	12
11. Heidelberg United SC	12	2	4	6	20	33	10
12. Bulleen Zebras SC	12	1	4	7	15	23	7

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sun, 19 May, 3:00 PM

Fawkner Blues SC vs. St Albans Saints SC
Preston Lions SC vs. Heidelberg United SC

RISING STARS IN ACTION



Action from the local derby between Marconi Youth and Sydney United Youth.

Photographer: Con Poulos
Email: www.spinpix.com.au

FERNANDEZ HOPEFUL OF A CANBERRA OLYMPIC REVIVAL

By Graham Cooke

Vic Fernandez is confident he can build a side capable of keeping Canberra Olympic off the bottom of the ACT Premiership. He should know, he's done it twice before.

The vastly experienced coach has once more answered the emergency call from one of Canberra's oldest clubs, taking over from Baz Giampaolo at the beginning of the season.

He found Olympic in crisis. The side, which had played successfully together over several seasons, had broken up in seven of the previous season's first team squad had departed, with the loss of Danny Macor and Njegosh Popovich leaving the club without a recognised striker.

Results in the pre-season Federation Cup suggested Olympic, preliminary finalists in the Premiership last season, might find themselves at the foot of the eight-team competition this time. After the recent 2-2 draw with Gungahlin Juventus, the critics may be forced to revise their verdicts.

Fernandez has encouraged the return to

the club of the vastly experienced defender Toplica Popovich — Njegosh's younger brother — in defence, along with Elliot Zwangobani in the midfield, after both finished a summer season with the Belconnen Blue Devils.

That left the problem of no strikers, and as a partial answer Fernandez coaxed his own son, Marcello, out of retirement. Marcello, who had not played seriously



Danny Macor: Has left Canberra Olympic leaving the side without a recognised striker.

for two years, answered the call with a crucial equalising goal against Juventus.

Fernandez senior is also enthusiastic about some of the young talent at the club, pointing to Stephen Polglase, a 16-year-old who got a 10-minute run off the bench in the Juventus game, and attacking midfielder Mohsen Ravanbarsa, as players for the future.

Why does the man who regularly assists in coaching for Australian national teams and who has just finished a stint as team boss of Samoa, always seem to gravitate to Olympic when he returns to his home base in Canberra?

"Probably because I love the Greeks," he said of the predominant ethnic group among the club's supporters. "Perhaps I should hate them because they are always setting me these impossible tasks, but they are a great bunch of people and I will always try to do my best for them."

"It is only for this season and in September we shall have to see what comes next — possibly another stint overseas."

"But whatever happens, I don't think I will be leaving this club at the bottom of the league."

ACT ACADEMY RETURN FROM SUCCESSFUL OVERSEAS TOUR

By Graham Cooke

The ACT Academy of Sport have returned from their tour of England and Wales with four wins and two draws from nine matches, but coach Mike Milovanovic said the results pale against the experience gained by his young players.

"It was an eye-opener for them to be footballers in a country where football is important," he said. "If you play the game there you are somebody."

"There simply isn't the culture here. It was an experience they will never forget."

Milovanovic said the idea for the Academy to break new ground and tour overseas was his. "There was no funding for it, so I got the parents together and outlined what I thought would be a great boost for their sons' soccer careers, and they agreed to pay the fares," he said.

"I chose England because the lads can relate to the football set up there from the television coverage it gets. Visits to Old Trafford, Anfield and Stamford Bridge mean a lot more to them than South America or Asia, or even other parts of Europe."

The party were able to watch the FA Cup semi-final between Chelsea and Fulham at Villa Park, but otherwise there was little time for spectating in a program that saw nine games played between April 10 and 28.

Milovanovic said the tour started with a 4-1 win over North West England Schools followed by a 1-0 margin over Tottenham United a non-league side that fielded their

full team.

Then came Tranmere Rovers youth, and the first loss, 4-1. "I think we were caught a little by suddenly coming up against a fully professional outfit and we were three goals down before we started playing," he said.

The damage was repaired with a 3-1 win over Wrexham youth, and then a series of highlights beginning with a 4-0 win against Sheffield Wednesday youth. "That team was coached by Steve Darby, who is well known in Australia, and he had six players who had been in Wednesday's reserve team," the coach said.

"He was shocked at the quality of our play, but very complimentary." Following that came a 3-3 draw with Everton, who had reached the FA Youth Cup final, and a 0-0 result in London against Charlton Athletic.

The tour ended with two losses, 3-1 to Watford and 2-1 against Southampton. "By that time fatigue was beginning to set in," the coach said.

He named midfielder Matt Anstey as one of the players of the tour, and said the matches had been watched by dozens of club representatives scouting for talent. "There was a lot of interest shown, but at this stage I don't want to go into details," he said.

"I think one of the most positive aspects of all this was the fact we put Canberra soccer on the map. Here we are big fish in a little pond, now we have got out into the ocean and proved we can still swim."

"I'm already planning the next tour."



Milan Milovanovic: Head ACTAS Coach planning for another overseas tour.

SOCCER WOMAN WITH JANENE MAR

THE SUPER TWELVE 1st FIFA U19 Women's World Championship

The inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship will be held in Canada, 17 August to 1 September this year.

FIFA's commitment to the establishment of the youth event is the latest major coup for women's football. It marks the enormous rate of growth of the game amongst women and particularly girls in every corner of the globe. And in turn, it serves to add further deserved prestige and professionalism to the sport.

And Australia's Young Matildas will be a part of history when they lineup as one of the Super Twelve to compete in the first Championship.

Today (Tue — Aust time) the dozen nations will be keeping a close watch as the official Draw is conducted at FIFA Headquarters in Zurich. The revelation of who each team will be up against in Group play, the match schedule, and the location of their matches is such an important first phase of the competition itself.

Let's take a look at the twelve nations to have qualified.

AUSTRALIA

Confirmed their status as the undisputed Oceania champions. Their 6-0 hiding of New Zealand in the final was not expected, and sadly quantifies the extent the Kiwis have fallen behind the progressive Aussies after many years of close tussles. The Young Matildas however face a tough challenge in Canada, the majority of other nations far more experienced on the youth international stage.

BRAZIL

Brazil was the standout in their region, although in the end only had to play a two-leg playoff to qualify. The original Qualifying Tournament was cancelled after two different host nations withdrew, and Peru was the only country to put up

its hand to play off for the single berth. Brazil went on to win both the home and away match by a margin of 6-0.

CANADA

'Qualified' as hosts but will be a solid force in their home event. Canada has stepped up their youth structure over the last three years with national teams in place at U19s, U17s, and U16s all receiving regular top class competition and technical direction.

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei was the surprise qualifier from Asia's recent U19 Championship, and Canada 2002 will be the country's first appearance in a FIFA event since the 1991 World Cup and perhaps a return to their former glory days. The bigger shock is that they bumped out China, the recent superpower missing out on its first such event ever.

DENMARK

Denmark has surprisingly emerged the solitary Scandinavian qualifier, taking over the mantle from their higher profile rivals Norway and Sweden at youth level. Topped their Group in the qualifiers but went down to the class of France in the semifinal.

ENGLAND

The amount of big money being pumped into the women's game in England at both grassroots and elite development has signalled a resurgence at international level, England qualifying for their first FIFA event since the 1995 World Cup. A talented side who were unlucky to go down to Germany in the semifinal.

FRANCE

The system based on youth and sound technical ability that took the French men to World Cup champions is now bearing large fruit for France's females. France can be proud of their efforts, not only qualifying for their first ever FIFA event, but finishing runners-up in the hotbed of Europe.

GERMANY

Germany has an enormous number of female players and together with its long-standing youth system, the Germans will be confident of claiming their first ever world title.

Have enjoyed an all-encompassing year of success at all age levels over the past year in Europe, and completed the set with a win in the final last weekend over France.

JAPAN

Japan maintains their solid record of top flight football, but this time confidence will be sky high after they finished as Asian champions.

Japan defeated China on penalties in the semifinal before going on to soundly beat Taipei in the final.

MEXICO

Mexico enjoys the luxury of calling upon their numerous US-based athletes when it comes to international competition.

Faltered in their opening qualification match, sharing the points with Jamaica, and had to come from behind to comfortably defeat hosts Trinidad in the crunch last match.

NIGERIA

Nigeria emerged the clear champion of Africa after beating South Africa 6-0 and 3-2 in their recent two-leg final.

Africa started its qualifying rounds back in August, and after several withdrawals along the way, nine countries competed.

USA

USA, as expected, annihilated all opposition in their qualifiers. America's sheer weight of female player numbers will make them one of the favourites to carry on the tradition of their senior counterparts and herald the US as the world's first number one.

THE SOCCER FOOTBALL BUS

- Travel in style and comfort to your next game.
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The Soccer Football Bus, starting from this issue will bring you all the latest news, views and gossip from the competitive world of the NSW Women's Super and State Leagues.

This week we concentrate on the St George club.

The ST. GEORGE SAINTS have drawn NORTH WEST SYDNEY KOALAS this Wednesday night at St. George Stadium in Round 2 of The Waratah Shield. Kick off is at 7.30pm. The Saints defeated UNIVERSITY OF NSW 2:0 in their first round clash.

☆☆☆

The ST. GEORGE SAINTS women's teams are having a trivia night this Saturday night (18/5/02), 7.30pm at the

MOOREFIELD BOWLING CLUB,

French St, KOGARAH (UBD 294 L/M 3/4).

The cost is \$10 per person.

Contact LES FARKAS on 0402 506 769 to book your tickets!!



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART B



11. Busan Stadium, Korea

Busan is the largest port and fisheries city located on the southeast coast of the Korean Peninsula. With a population of four million, Korea's second largest metropolis grew into a modern port city between 1906 and 1944.

It first opened its ports as the first international port in Korea in 1876. Busan is renowned as one of the world's three largest ports that can handle up to 6.44 million TEU shipping containers per year. However the city is more than that with new tourist activities such as aquariums and international sea resorts. The food around Busan is full of natural fresh dishes.

The town has a history of sporting involvement. It held the 1986 Asian Games, the football and yachting competitions for the 1988 Olympics, and the 1997 East Asian games. After the World Cup the city will be

hosting the 14th Asian games which includes up to 10000 athletes from 43 Asian countries.

The construction of a multi-purpose stadium began in 1991 in Yoonjeu Geoje-dong. This stadium's capacity is 55,982 seats with four floors above ground and two basement floors on a building site of approximately 330,000 square meters. The total floor space will be approximately 93,882 square meters. The ground has a main stadium and an auxiliary field, with 5000 seats for it!

Busan's history with professional soccer may be short but it is full of success. In 1983 Busan professional soccer team was established and they won the championship less than one year later. In 1986 they took out the 5th Asian club soccer tournament and a year later won the 1st Asian vs African Club play off. In 1987 they won the domestic champi-

onship again and by 1991 had added another three championships to this tally. After a few years hiatus they side won three titles in 1997 and had further success in 1998. In the year 2000 the side were purchased by Hyundai and by May they were reborn as the Busan Icons.

STADIUM INFORMATION:
Location: 1300 Geoje-dong, Yeonje-gu, Busan
Capacity: 55,982
Parking: 3,098
Access: 5 min. by car from Dongrae Subway Station (1.6 km) or 7 min. by car from Express Bus Terminal (1.9 km) or 30 min. from Busan Railway Station (13 km) or 40 min. from Gimhae International Airport (16 km).



Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Pinnacle of a Coach — ADRIAN ALSTON a 1974 World Cup Soccer member, is well known in the country.

He was feared as a top striker, scoring his hare of goals for clubs and country, mainly with his head and consequently gained the nickname 'NODDY'. He is not only Port's coach but was recently named as coach of the Illawarra representative team due to play a Canberra XI next month.



Adrian Alston: Former Soccer great.

Port Kembla Soccer Club invites local and national soccer prominence to celebrate ADRIAN ALSTON'S testimonial 10 years as club coach - for Saturday night 25th May. One has to recognise and admire this long-life coaching streak, not very often achieved in club coaching.

The testimonial will be held at the Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow, a major sponsor of local soccer. Local soccer coaches, players, administrators plus club fans are most welcome to enjoy a night of entertainment as well as a 3-course dinner, drinks, dessert and coffee, tickets \$50.- call Port's Eddy De Gabriel on 0419 244 388 or 02 42763070 to book — all

welcome to come along, live at the FRAT on Saturday night 25th May 2002.

ICU Premier League Critical Review after 5 Rounds — Still in front are Lysaght on 13 points, who managed only a 1:1 draw away at much improved Picton Rangers who are now in 4th spot on 8 points.

The competition leaders who dropped their first points of the season, now face a tough opponent next - a real challenge for Lysaght coach Rob Birkin and his team.

2nd spot is taken at present by Kemblawarra on 9 points, surprisingly lost to lowly Tarrawanna who are in 11 spot. Their first win in Premier League, was an impressive performance for coach David Naylor's side.

3rd place — Port Kembla on 8 points, drew against Coniston on 8 points now 5th, in the match of the day.

Wollongong Olympic now in 5th spot on 7 points, drew against Cringila who are 10th on 5 points. They can moan their fate with the opposition equalising in the last minutes while leading twice before.

Kiama in 9th spot on 5 points, drew with Bulli 7th on 6 points. A terrific result for newly promoted Kiama and definitely a force to be taken seriously. Kiama coach Brod Crighton can be well satisfied with a good start in the higher division.

West Illawarra in 8th spot on 6 points won well against Balgownie Rangers who are last on 3 points. Coach Larry Gaffney is breathing a little easier now, while coach Ray Poletto of Balgownie is looking for a solution to strengthen his side.

In the lower grades like Youth division leaders are Coniston Lions, Balgonvie, Cringila, Bulli and Reserve Grade leaders are

Lysaght, Tarrawanna, Olympic and Bulli.

ICU Conference League Outlook after 5 Rounds — Albion Park WE on 13 points outright leaders, recorded 4 wins and 1 draw. This is quite an achievement for the youngest coach in the league and still active as goalkeeper is Steve Micevski. Hard to see their advance being stopped in the next rounds, until they meet the other top end contenders.

Berkeley also on 13 points, 4 wins, 1 draw, 16 goals, 3 against. Coached by well known former soccer great Phil Brown and strengthened this year by signing several experienced players are doing well overall and expected to hold a top place.

Dapto also on 13 points, 4 wins, 1 draw, no loss, 15 goals scored, 5 against and in 3rd spot. Coached this year by Jason Higgs, a player coach they have started off very well. They played in last year's Premier League and are now aiming for promotion at the completion of this year's rounds. Against strong opposition it will be tough to maintain the momentum. In Youth grade the side runs 2nd on the table.

Highlands United on 10 points, 3 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss, now 4th spot. Done very well so far under coach Brian Hollywood, they are always competitive at home and backed by a strong youth grade.

University of Wollongong - 5th position, 3 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss; on 10 points. Coached for years by Daniel McGodrick and managed for even more seasons by the never-ageing Peter Bannister. Over many seasons Uni have been competitive with the influx of students every year bringing colourful multi-skilled players coming to town.

Warilla Wanderers - in 6th spot

on 9 points, 3 wins, 2 losses, scored 12 goals, 15 against. New coach Barry Robinson, a well respected past player, still active in the amateurs, took over on short notice and has done well with a talented squad of players which did promise much over the last few years but just fell short. Played in past years in Premier League and still harbours ambitions to aim for promotion.

Bellambi in 7th place, 7 points, 2 wins, 1 draw, 2 losses. Coached by Mile Vlaski, home ground Elizabeth Park, a club with a very proud record not only in local soccer but also going back to NSW State League. They have however not been able to resurrect past glory days.

Woonona in 8th place, 7 points, 2 wins, 1 draw, 2 losses. Coach Kevin Wiseman, home ground Ocean Park. Another historical Illawarra soccer club of past eras, not quite able to compete for a championship place but every year demanding a place high up.

ROUND 7 W/E 18TH MAY — ICU PREMIER LEAGUE
 Kiama v Kemblawarra
 Picton v Balgownie
 Port Kembla v Bulli
 Coniston v Lysaght
 West v Cringila
 Olympic v Tarrawanna

CONFERENCE LEAGUE ROUND 7
 Albion Park WE v Northern United
 Bellambi v Highlands
 Berkeley v Helensburgh
 Dapto v Fernhill
 Ruse v Barbarians
 Warilla v Shoalhaven City
 Woonona v Shellharbour City
 University v South Coast United

DEAKIN AND MONARO SHARE THE LEAD AS ACT PREMIERSHIP HEATS UP

By Graham Cooke

“With players of this quality, it's easy.” Canberra Deakin first-team coach Gabriel Wilk sounded almost apologetic after his team retained its 100 per cent, no goals against record in the ACT Premiership with a 2-0 win over Capital City Suns on Sunday.

In fact, it was simply a statement of the obvious. Monaro — also unbeaten — believe they can upset the juggernaut in a deferred game in a couple of weeks; third-placed Gungahlin Juventus will be plotting to do it even earlier when the teams meet next Sunday, but most independent observers suggest that only a catastrophic run of injuries will halt Deakin's march to the minor premiership.

Against the Suns they never looked in danger, aided certainly by their opponents' lack of an effective striker. The goals came in the opening 45 minutes: the first, a header almost on the line from Gasten off a David Milin cross, could have been avoided with tighter marking; little could be done about the second, a cracking drive from Zvonko Uslerbrka, although more efficient clean-up work in defence ought to have denied him the opportunity in the first place.

The Suns' chances were few and far between. Tony Aleksovski had a sight of goal in the first half, but pushed the ball too far ahead and

allowed it to be intercepted. In the second half Ilija Prenoski forced goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou into his most serious bit of work for the afternoon.

But mostly it was a battle by the Suns to keep the score respectable — a task its overworked defence stuck to and, under the competent leadership of central defender Michael Seleke, eventually attained.

Monaro kept on Deakin's heels, although their 1-0 win over Belconnen United at Hawker was far less convincing.

The only goal came well into the second half, and under controversial circumstances as United's defence was left appealing long and loud for offside when Alex Fine ran through to score.

For the second week in a row Canberra Olympic drew 2-2, this time against Tuggeranong United.

Ella Salloum gave Olympic the lead only for Lorie David to hit back almost at once. United then took the lead through Ken McDonald, but Salloum, whose pace had been giving Tuggeranong problems throughout the game, grabbed a point for his side with a strike two minutes from the end.

Juventus hoisted itself into the top four with a 6-1 win over bottom club Weston Creek Royals. The Royals scored first and clung to the lead until the second half, but a devastating 20-minute spell saw Steve Lazzari score four times, backed by Robbie Schroder and George Cattanach.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	4	4	0	0	16	0	12
Monaro	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Gungahlin Juventus	5	2	2	1	14	10	8
Tuggeranong United	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Belconnen United	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Capital City Suns	5	1	2	2	9	7	5
Canberra Olympic	5	0	2	2	6	16	3
Weston Creek Royals	5	0	0	5	3	24	0



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART C



12. Ibaraki Prefectural Kashima Soccer Stadium, Japan

Ibaraki Prefectural Kashima Soccer Stadium had to undergo a major renovation project to meet World Cup requirements and this began in October 1998. The Stadium now has seating capacity for 41800 people and includes a whole new second level stand.

The stadium is oval shaped and has a wavy roof. It is designed for football only and its design has been clearly influenced by European football stadia. Standing at the stadium entrance is a statue of Kashima's most favourite footballer: the Brazilian star Zico, who brought his playing and coaching skills to the town, inspired renewed enthusiasm among a new generation of young fans, and helped the Antlers become J.League champions.

Ibaraki's capital city of Mito developed during the Japanese feudal period as the regional base for the ruling Tokugawa clan and was home to a thriving community of scholars, craftsmen, and artisans. One of Japan's three most celebrated landscape gardens, known as Kairakuen, was established here in 1842. Traditional crafts have been practised continuously in Ibaraki, utilising techniques handed down from generation to generation. For example, tsumugi silk pongee from the town of Yuki is the oldest high-quality silk fabric in Japan, with a history dating back more than 1,200 years to the Nara period. Every step in the tsumugi crafting process is still performed by hand today.

Today, Mito is primarily a commercial city of some 240,000 and a leading industrial and manufacturing centre for Japanese enterprise. Ibaraki is one hour north east of Tokyo.

Location: 26-2 Ushiroyama, Jinkoji, Kashima City, Ibaraki

Capacity: 42,000

Parking: 12,000

Access: Located 3km from the centre of Kashima City / 15 min. by car (bound for the Stadium) from Kashima Jingu Station on the JR Kashima Line / 2min. walk from Kashima Soccer Stadium Station on the Kashima Rinkai Railway Line / 2 hours by train or bus from JR Tokyo station.



14. Suwon World Cup Stadium, Korea

Suwon was established under the initiative of King Jeongjo in the 18th century during Korea's Joseon Dynasty. It is a city built on systematic and scientific planning, inspired by the ideals of filial piety and reform. It is located one hour south of the nation's capital Seoul with a population of 930,000. It has risen to become Korea's leading city in digital technology. Nevertheless, despite its role as a modern city at the cutting edge of industry, Suwon is also a historical city. One of its best-known historical relics is Hwaseong, the ancient city walls that have been designated as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO.

The construction of Suwon Convention City 21 is planned to coincide with the World Cup. This new complex will be completed along with the Image Theme Park, and a World Miniature Castle Park where visitors can see a unique collection of scale models of famous castles from around the world. And there will also be the Hwaseong Observation Tower, as a central feature of all these projects to commemorate the 2002 World Cup.

Suwon is a football city, too. It is home to a very successful professional club, the Samsung Blue Wings, who won back-to-back Korean league titles in 1998 and 1999.

Occupying a total site of 425,000 m², the sports complex will include not only the main stadium but also one auxiliary stadium and two practice fields. When the project is complete, the Suwon World Cup Stadium will seat 44,047 fans and be used as the home of the Blue Wings. This model of a 21st century stadium is also designed for use as a multi-purpose cultural centre offering sports facilities such as swimming-pools and tennis-courts, as well as recreational areas such as cinemas, concert halls and fashion show catwalks.

Location: 228 Uman-dong, Paldal-gu, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do

Capacity: Audience Seats: 44,047 seats (roofed seats: 58%, 26,000 seats)

— Membership seats (Box): 478 seats
— VIP seats: 829 seats
— Seats for relayed broadcasting: 480 seats
— Reporters' seats: 1,044 seats
— Seats for the disabled: 208 seats
— General seats: 41,008 seats

Major Facilities: one Auxiliary Playground (1,000 seats) — : three Practice Grounds

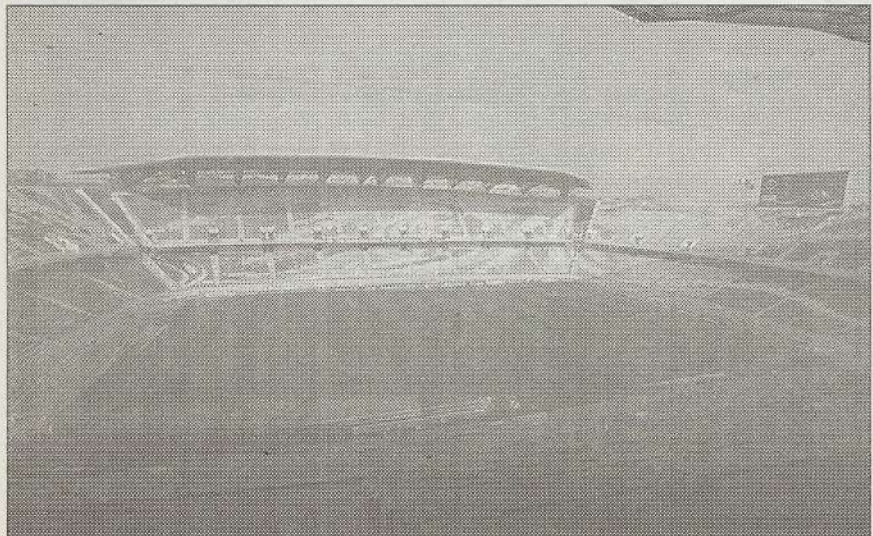
Affiliated Facilities: retailers' shop (restaurants, other shops); VIP Room: Lounge for Players and Staff; Reporters' Room; Media Center; Doping Center

The Maximum Visibility Distance from Stand: 190m

The Maximum Slope of Viewers Stands: 34 degrees

Parking: 2,748

Access: 20 min. by shuttle bus service from Suwon Station / 50 min. by car from Incheon International Airport (90 km) / 5 min. from East Suwon Interchange (Expressway) / 15 min. from Shingal Interchange (Expressway).



13. Gwangju World Cup Stadium, Korea

Gwangju Stadium is another just designed for football. The roof is an open dome covering 60% of the seating. The ground itself has been designed with regard to the environment around it and features include a huge amount of natural landscaping. It is situated near the Yeomju Sports Complex Park which includes seven varieties of sporting activities and on the North East side of the ground is a World Cup Plaza.

The ground is also one of the most environmentally friendly. The wastewater from Yeomju swimming pool will be recycled using heavy hydrogen treatment and used for watering plants and cleaning the stadium facilities (the complex is expected to consume an average of 205 tons of heavy hydrogen water daily). The ground water - originally planned to be used for cleaning - will be treated for the swimming pool. (The swimming pool uses up 400 tons a day). A solar energy system will replace fuel-based energy. Lights are used in energy-saving mode.

The sports field is a mixture of natural grass and synthetic materials so as to absorb the impacts of falls. There is a moat to stop the crowd entering the playing arena. Should there be an emergency in the crowd the plans are to have all spectators in safety zones in an amazing five minutes!

After the World Cup the stadium will be changed to a multi purpose stadium for both sporting and cultural events. The areas below the stands will be open to the public all year round for leisure and exercise purposes.

Gwangju is Korea's fifth largest city with a population of 1.4 million. To stage a World Cup of culture that will be commensurate with its image as a city of arts, Gwangju plans to link the World Cup matches with the fourth edition of the Biennale arts festival. Fans visiting the games from abroad will be fascinated to witness authentic performances including the distinctive style of traditional farm music known as Gwangsan Nongak as well as Gossam Race, a loop fight played by the full moon.

As an important element in achieving the successful realisation of the unprecedented co-hosting of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, Gwangju is cementing friendly ties with Sendai, the city in the Miyagi region that is one of the Japanese World Cup venues in Japan. The two cities have signed an agreement to promote friendship through far-reaching exchanges in sports, culture and various other fields.

Location: 423-2, Pungam-dong, Seo-gu, Gwangju

Capacity: 42,880

Parking: 4,248

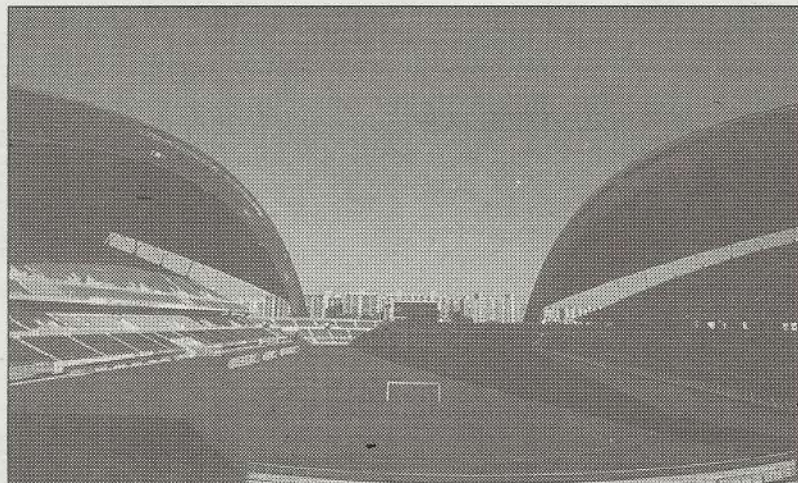
Height: five-story building of 51.85m height

Coverage rate of roof: 60% of the spectators' seats

Capacity: 43,121 seats : - Popular seats: 41,060seats - Seats for the handicapped:200seats

- Seats for V.I.P. : 500seats - Seats for the press: 1,120seats

Access: Shuttle Service from Downtown / 15 min. by car from Gwangju Airport (6 km) / 20 min. by bus from Gwangju Station (6 km) / 30 min. by bus from Songjongri Station (9 km).



15. Jeonju World Cup Stadium, South Korea

Situated in the southwestern part of the Korean peninsula, Jeonju is home to the Joseon Dynasty and has a history dating back over 1,300 years. In particular, the city has the country's biggest Korean-style house village, with over 800 households. Preserved as a special folk culture zone, this area has various places that are worth paying a visit to, including the folk culture centre, the Korean-style house centre, and the folk museum, where visitors can get first-hand experience of the traditional lifestyle of Korea. The city is also famous for its Bibimbap, which along with Pyongyang's iced noodles and Gaesung's rice and broth features as one of Korea's top three most popular foods.

Located near the Jeonju IC, the gateway to the city, the Jeonju World Cup Stadium has four concave roofs forming a symbolic fan hanging on suspension cables that represent the 12 strings of a Gaya harp, a Korean musical instrument. Another notable feature of the stadium is its ecologically sound design: an existing river that has been purified winds its way around the stadium.

Covering a surface area of 627,000 m², the Jeonju World Cup Stadium is the biggest of the ten newly built World Cup stadiums in Korea, and it boasts a large meeting area and a park where people can go to relax and unwind.

During the 2002 World Cup it will host two group matches and one second round match.

Location: 763-1 Banwol-dong, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do

Capacity: 42,391

Parking: 3,729

Access: 300 metres from Jeonju Interchange. 20 min. by car from Jeonju Station / 30 min. by shuttle service from Jeonju Downtown / 70 min. by car from Gunsan Airport (60 km)





National League Final



ACTION FROM THE 2001/2002 NATIONAL LEAGUE GRAND FINAL



Perth Glory0
Olympic Sharks1
(A Milicić 48')

Sunday May 12
Subiaco Oval
Crowd: 42,735

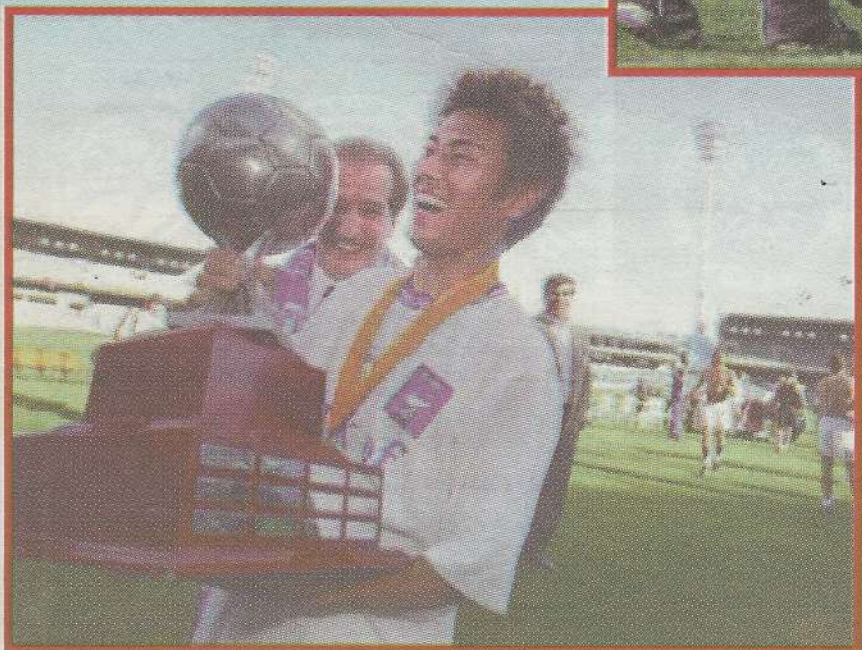




National League Final



ACTION FROM THE 2001/2002 NATIONAL LEAGUE GRAND FINAL



The Olympic Sharks post-match celebrations

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

www.soccernsw.com.au



SUPER LEAGUE FEATURE MATCH



Dulwich Hill

v

Hurstville City CS 

By Greg Stock

Hurstville City Crescent Star took their unbeaten run to four games disposing of a disappointing Dulwich Hill 4-0 at Arlington Oval on Sunday.

While the match promised so much on paper, it sadly failed to deliver much in the way of enterprise or excitement. With both sides adopting a physical style of play, the match was robbed of any flow. Fans could have been forgiven for thinking they had stumbled into a wrestling match at times, with Con Diomis forced to issue nine yellow cards in a bid to keep control of proceedings.

While the physical tiddly-winks never abated throughout the match, when football did break out it was Crescent Star who were by far and away the better side. With Michael Kladis and Yavus Ekinci working well in the centre of the park, the visitors stretched the home side's defence on a number of occasions. Archie Markopoulos also created some space down the flanks opening up some chances for the likes of livewire strikers Tanju Balabanel and Huseyin Bayhan.

Balabanel got his side on the score-sheet in the 47th minute when he connected with a well-weighted cross from new signing Devrim Huseyin but it wouldn't be until the final ten minutes that the game was put beyond doubt. With Dulwich Hill pushing numbers forward to try and pinch an equaliser, substitute Hans Sevgin exploited some soft Dulwich Hill defending to pick himself up two goals with Huseyin nabbing the other in a late second-half burst that startled even their own fans.

While there weren't a lot of positives to come out of the game, there was one in the form of Dulwich Hill defender

Dejan Ristovski. At twenty-one years of age, Ristovski is the youngest captain of any side in the Super League and showed just how much he had matured as a player with a strong contribution to his side's performance. But sadly he had little support with Yane Talceviski and Daniel Radojkovic trying hard for a well beaten side.



Action from Sunday's game.

DULWICH HILL 0
HURSTVILLE CITY CS 4
(Tanju Balabanel 48' Hans Sevgin 84' 90' Devrim Huseyin 88')
at Arlington Oval

Dulwich Hill: Daniel Farias, Andre Glucina, Dejan Ristovski, Ben Pilsworth, Alain Barataud (Xavier Schnyder 35'), Bill Petrovski (Samer Nicola 84'), Daniel Radojkovic, Helder Cardoso (John Rousseau 63'), Yane Talceviski, Orhan Dincer, Ali Salim.

Hurstville City Crescent Star: Steve Tolios, Devrim Huseyin, Michael Kladis, Tayfun Devrimol, Angelo Petratos, Achilles Markopoulos, Hussein Jomaa (Hulsi Orhan 73'), Yavus Ekinci, Tanju Balabanel, Huseyin Bayhan (Hans Sevgin 73'), Sam Panagakis (Spiri Kladis 87').

Cautions: Dulwich Hill - Dincer 13' Ristovski 14' Glucina 22' Pilsworth 80' Hurstville City Crescent Star - Balabanel 19' Huseyin 48' Bayhan 56' Markopoulos 63' Orhan 75'

Referee: Con Diomis



Michael Kladis of Hurstville.

SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND 10

Sunday 19 May

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Fraser Park Jets	v	Hurstville City CS	Fraser Park 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
MSC Liverpool	v	Hajduk Wanderers	Hammondville Park 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Stanmore Hawks	v	Macarthur Rams	Arlington Oval 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Rockdale City Suns	v	Ryde City	Rockdale Ilinden Field 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
AC United	v	Manly Warringah	Abruzzi Oval 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Sydney University	v	Dulwich Hill	Sydney Uni Oval No1 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM

ROUND 11

Saturday 25 May

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Macarthur Rams	v	Fraser Park Jets	Lynwood Park 7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM

Sunday 26 May

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Hurstville City CS	v	Sydney University	St George Stadium 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Dulwich Hill	v	Rockdale City Suns	Arlington Oval 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Ryde City	v	AC United	Magdala Road 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Manly Warringah	v	MSC Liverpool	Cromer Park 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Hajduk Wanderers	v	Stanmore Hawks	Hajduk Stadium 3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM



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- Super League Scoreboard & Tables ... P21
- Division One & Two ... P22
- Youth/Cadet Leagues Reports & Fixtures ... P23
- Youth/Cadet Leagues Results & Tables ... P24
- NSWASF News ... P25

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NSW Super League



ROUND NINE WRAP-UP

MACARTHUR RAMS . . 1
(Stewart Van Bentum 84')

MSC LIVERPOOL . . . 1
(George Issa 40')
at Lynwood Park

A fighting second half display from the Macarthur Rams gave them an even split of their home game against MSC Liverpool.

With Liverpool coach Brian Dene returning to his old stomping ground, he might well have thought his side had the three points in the bag, leading 1-0 with less than ten minutes to play.

But a late second half revival, finished off nicely by new signing Stewart Van Bentum, ensured the Rams came out of the match unscathed.

FRASER PARK 2
(Kire Agwa 47' Antonio Faria 75')

STANMORE HAWKS . . 0
at Fraser Park

Fraser Park moved into outright fourth position on the competition table with a comfortable 2-0 win over the Stanmore Hawks.

The Jets were the better side for the majority of the match but it took until the second half for that dominance to show on the scoreboard.

Youngster Kire Agwa gave his side the lead early in the second half before the Hawks rallied and hit the bar with a shot from Neil Phillipou.

But the Jets weren't to be denied and some lovely lead-up work from Alex Leris gave former Northern Spirit striker Antonio Faria his fifth goal of the season to parcel the game up nicely.

RYDE CITY 3
(Andy Stratford 7' pen 70' Ben Burrows 90')

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY . 3
(Rob Smithies 35' Gordon Boyd 47' Jason McMinimee 56')
at Magdala Road

A thrilling three-all draw at Magdala Road which saw the visitors finish the match with just ten men.

Defender Greg Buddeis was given his marching orders by referee Mark Hester late in the match allowing the Gunners to press forward and score a late winner, courtesy of goal sneak Ben Burrows.

The game was always a willing contest with Ryde taking the early lead in the 7th minute by an Andy Stratford penalty but the Students came storming back to lead by as much as 3-1 with twenty minutes to play.

But Stratford again got his name on the scoresheet with a 70th minutes strike to set up a grandstand finish. Ben Burrows took advantage of a goalmouth scramble with seconds remaining to give his side an even share of the spoils, much to the dismay of Uni coach Stewart Porter.

MANLY-WARRINGAH . . 2
(Steve Berry 50' Ryan Griffiths 80')

ROCKDALE CITY . . . 1
(Spase Najdoski 51')
at Cromer Park

Manly joined Rockdale at the top of the Super League table with a 2-1 win over their more fancied opponents, in the top of the table clash at Cromer Park. With a large crowd on hand to watch proceedings the match was a tight affair with both sides putting on a high quality contest.

The Suns were arguably the better of the two sides throughout the match but with a couple of poor

defensive errors threw the game away. Midfielder Steve Berry was given some space in the 50th minute to nod away a Phil Moss cross to get the scoreboard moving.

Spase Najdoski replied for the visitors in the next passage of play when he brilliantly knocked a free kick over the wall and into the top of the net to get his side back into the contest. But when substitute Zoki Adisoki missed a one on one with the Manly goalkeeper Dean McCreath, the Dolphins turned around and went back up field and nailed the winner via striker Ryan Griffiths.

HAJDUK WANDERERS 1
(Tim Gledhill 84')

AC UNITED 1
(Maytham Abdal 88')
at Hajduk Stadium

A 'game of two halves' saw Hajduk Wanderers and AC United play out a hard fought one-all draw.

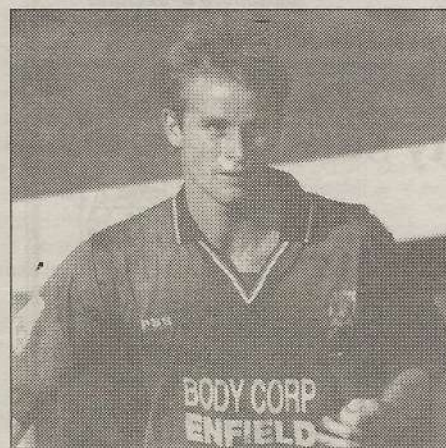
Hajduk dominated the first half completely and should have been three or four nil up at half-time,

with striker Tim Gledhill missing a handful of chances.

But after a half-time rev up from coach Paul Carter and a couple of substitutions, AC United came back strongly and took over for the second forty-five minutes.

With both sides seemingly unable to find the net, the game looked destined for a scoreless draw until Gledhill struck in the 84th minute.

AC came back strongly and picked up a late equaliser when Alex Araujo deftly lobbed the goalkeeper only to see Maytham Abdal charge through to make certain the ball was in the back of the net. The result was a fitting end to a game that could have gone either way.



Ben Price of AC United.



Tim Gledhill: Scorer for Hajduk Wanderers.



Stanmore's tough defender Peter Papoythis.



Rockdale's ex-NSL player Jose Mendes.

ALL THE SCORERS

- 8** - Robert Smithies (Sydney University)
7 - Hamilton Thorpe (Manly-Warringah), Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers)
5 - Ben Burrows (Ryde City), Antonio Faria (Fraser Park), Ryan Griffiths (Manly-Warringah), Spase Najdoski (Rockdale City Suns)
4 - Peter Apolevski (Rockdale City Suns), Tanju Balabanel (Hurstville City), Huseyin Bayhan (Hurstville City), Steve Berry (Manly-Warringah), Neno Bobos (AC United), John Rousseau (Dulwich Hill)
3 - Zoki Adisoki (Rockdale City Suns), Aydin Cetinay (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), Neil Phillipou (Stanmore Hawks), Brendan Salameh (Hajduk Wanderers), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Eric Williams (Macarthur Rams), Zia Younan (AC United)
2 - Denis Alilovic (Rockdale City Suns), Alex Araujo (AC United), David Brickell (Manly-Warringah), Eddie Briscoe (Stanmore Hawks), Ben Deighan (Rockdale City Suns), Yavus Ekinci (Hurstville City), Eric Hristodoulou (Stanmore Hawks), Robert Issa (MSC Liverpool), Steve Jordan (Hajduk Wanderers), Jim Melissourgos (Stanmore Hawks), Luke McDougal (Sydney University), Marc Nicholson (Manly-Warringah), Peter Papoythis (Stanmore Hawks), Robbie Portelli (Ryde City), Ben Price (AC United), Damien Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Andy Stratford (Ryde City), Freddy Umlil (Sydney University), Stewart Van Bentum (Macarthur Rams), Navid Vares (Stanmore Hawks), Luke Vincent (AC United), Paul White (AC United), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers)
1 - Maytham Abdal (AC United), Kire Agwa (Fraser Park), Alan Agyei (AC United), Ante Alilovic (Rockdale City Suns), Kory Babington (Macarthur Rams), Malcolm Bideau (Rockdale City Suns), Steve Biviano (Fraser Park), Gordon Boyd (Sydney University), Martin Bourke (Macarthur Rams), Todd Brodie (Hajduk Wanderers), Paul Candelori (Fraser Park), Leo Carle (Rockdale City Suns), Hakan Celik (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Andrew Cheong (Sydney University), Robert Cicek (MSC Liverpool), J.J. Ellul (Hajduk Wanderers), David Gill (Sydney University), Andre Glucina (Dulwich Hill), Gabriel Gonzalez (Hajduk Wanderers), Ben Green (Macarthur Rams), Nathan Hall (Sydney University), Devrim Huseyin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), George Issa (MSC Liverpool), Ian King (Fraser Park), Tyrone Lara (Sydney University), Alex Leris (Fraser Park), Jason McMinimee (Sydney University), Jose Mendes (Rockdale City Suns), Phil Moss (Manly-Warringah), Daisuke Nakayama (Sydney University), David Oliverio (AC United), Derek Poimer (Fraser Park), Tom Pontidas (Stanmore Hawks), John Rousseau (Dulwich Hill), Robert Sacco (AC United), Ali Salim (Dulwich Hill), Gary Seymour (Macarthur Rams), Gordon Sutherland (AC United), Robert Todorovski (Stanmore Hawks), Scott Watkins (MSC Liverpool)

NEW SOUTH WALES
FOOTBALL

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NSW Super League



ROUND 10 PREVIEW



Stanmore Hawks

v

Macarthur Rams



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Arlington Oval, Cnr Williams Street & Constitution Rd, Dulwich Hill

The wheels have really fallen off the Stanmore wagon in recent weeks with just one win from their past five outings.

Arlington Oval always gives the side a lift and they'll be expected to pick up the full three points on offer against the Rams.

Macarthur will definitely not be easybeats with the likes of Robert Angievski, Stewart Van

Bentum and Eric Williams all capable of raining on the Hawks parade.

One player to keep an eye on will be Stanmore's Neil Phillipou.

Coach Chris Karasis has marked this youngster as one destined for higher honours and his contribution in the Hawks midfield will go a long way to deciding the outcome of the game.



Stanmore's exciting prospect Neil Phillipou.

MSC Liverpool

v

Hajduk Wanderers



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Hammondville Park, Heathcote Road, Hammondville.

MSC Liverpool picked up a valuable point at the hands of Macarthur last weekend but a long injury toll at the club has left coach Brian Dene struggling to put eleven fit players on the park.

Six of the clubs first grade starters are all out for varying lengths of time prompting Dene to wonder what else can go wrong.

"It's very hard when you have just 12 fit players for first grade" said Dene, "and lately we have been drafting in a number of youth team players to plug some gaps."

The Wanderers have won two of their last four games and will start red hot favourites. Tim Gledhill, Steve Jordan and Gabriel Gonzalez look the men most likely to cause Liverpool no end of problems.



Hajduk captain Mark Abi-Arrage.



Rockdale City Suns

v

Ryde City Gunners



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Rockdale Ilinden Field, West Botany Street, Arncliffe.

Rockdale suffered their first of the season last weekend when they were defeated by Manly-Warringah 2-1 at Cromer Park.

The loss was their first for the season with many fans feeling the result didn't really reflect the Suns' endeavours during the game.

They'll get their chance to

return to the winners' circle when they host Tony Dunn's Ryde City who picked up their first point for four weeks in posting a 3-3 draw with Sydney University.

On paper this game looks a complete mismatch but football can be a funny game and if Rockdale aren't on their game they could well come unstuck.



Peter Apolevski: Four goals so far for Rockdale.

Fraser Park Jets

v

Hurstville City CS



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Fraser Park, Marrickville Road, Marrickville.

Another tough game on paper, this match pits two of the league's top five sides head to head in a battle royale.

"Hurstville are going to be very tough" said Fraser Park coach John Sentas. "They have a number of my former players at St George who would like nothing better than to put one over me."

With striker Derek Poimer

unavailable through suspension and midfielder Ian King still out with a groin problem, the Jets will need to lift in an effort to cover the holes.

"They are sorely missed" continued Sentas, "but we will change our gameplan and make sure we cover our bases."

We played well last week and I am positive we can continue that and put on a great match.



Sam Panagakis of Hurstville.



AC United

v

Manly Warringah Dolphins



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Abruzzi Oval, Elizabeth Street, Wetherill Park.

AC United coach Paul Carter was very pleased with his side's second half last weekend against Hajduk Wanderers, but admits he needs to iron out a few faults before the visit of the league leading Dolphins this weekend.

"We were very ordinary in the first half against Hajduk" said Carter, "and the boys will be working hard on the training paddock to make sure we don't

make the same mistakes as last week."

Manly will showcase a number of their profile stars including Hamilton Thorp, Andrew Clark and Ryan Griffiths and a high quality contest is on the cards.

"We certainly don't have the same star players as our opponents" conceded Carter, "but what we have is a tough hard working team, and I am quietly confident we can make a real impression against Manly."



Gordon Sutherland (AC United).



Sydney University

v

Dulwich Hill



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 19th May 2002
VENUE: Sydney Uni Oval No.1, Main Campus, Sydney University, Camperdown

With both sides sitting eighth and ninth this is a must win game.

Uni coach Stewart Porter faces the tough task of lifting his side after a late second half capitulation robbed his side of three points last weekend against Ryde City.

He will have to do it without the services of

defender Greg Buddeis who will serve a weeks' suspension.

Dulwich Hill have won just two of their past seven starts and are proving to be a hot and cold commodity.

When they are on song they can beat any side in the competition and have the likes of Ali Salim and Yane Talcevski capable of getting them home.



Orhan Dincer from Dulwich Hill.



NSW Super League



Scoreboard

SUPER LEAGUE RD 9

First Grade

MACARTHUR RAMS1 (S Van Bentum 84')	MSC LIVERPOOL1 (G Issa 40')
FRASER PARK2 (K Agwa 47', A Farria 75')	STANMORE HAWKS0
DULWICH HILL0	HURSTVILLE CITY CS4 (H Sevgin 87/94', D Huseyn 92', T Balabanel 49')
RYDE CITY3 (A Stratford 7' pen/70', B Burrows 90')	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY3 (R Smithies 35', G Boyd 47', J McMinimee 56')
MANLY WARRINGAH2 (S Berry 50', R Griffiths 80')	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS1 (S Najdoski 51')
HAJDUK WANDERERS ...1 (T Gledhill 84')	AC UNITED1 (M Abdal 88')

UNDER 21

MACARTHUR RAMS1	MSC LIVERPOOL0
FRASER PARK1	STANMORE HAWKS2
DULWICH HILL1	HURSTVILLE CITY CS2
RYDE CITY5	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2
MANLY WARRINGAH ...0	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS0
HAJDUK WANDERERS ...2	AC UNITED1

UNDER 19

MACARTHUR RAMS1	MSC LIVERPOOL4
FRASER PARK4	STANMORE HAWKS2
DULWICH HILL4	HURSTVILLE CITY CS0
RYDE CITY4	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY1
MANLY WARRINGAH ...0	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS0
HAJDUK WANDERERS ...3	AC UNITED2



Rockdale City Suns



Stanmore Hawks

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 9

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manly Warringah Dolphins	9	7	1	1	23	10	13	22
Rockdale City Suns	9	7	1	1	20	10	10	22
AC United	9	5	2	2	21	17	4	17
Fraser Park Jets	9	4	3	2	11	9	2	15
Stanmore Hawks	9	4	2	3	15	10	5	14
Hurstville City Crescent Star	9	4	2	3	21	17	4	14
Hajduk Wanderers	9	4	2	3	17	13	4	14
Dulwich Hill	9	3	0	6	10	16	-6	9
Sydney University	9	2	2	5	19	20	-1	8
Macarthur Rams	9	2	1	6	9	20	-11	7
Ryde City	9	1	3	5	10	17	-7	6
MSC Liverpool	9	0	3	6	5	22	-17	3

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	9	6	1	2	23	15	8	19
Ryde City	9	5	2	2	22	15	7	17
Hurstville City CS	9	5	2	2	19	12	7	17
AC United	9	5	2	2	18	13	5	17
Hajduk Wanderers	9	5	2	2	18	14	4	17
Fraser Park Jets	9	5	1	3	20	12	8	16
Manly Warringah Dolphins	9	3	3	3	14	12	2	12
Stanmore Hawks	9	3	3	3	9	11	-2	12
Rockdale City Suns	9	3	2	4	16	16	0	11
MSC Liverpool	9	2	1	6	10	23	-13	7
Sydney University	9	1	2	6	15	25	-10	5
Dulwich Hill	9	0	1	8	5	21	-16	1

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dulwich Hill	9	7	0	2	18	6	12	21
Rockdale City Suns	9	6	2	1	19	11	8	20
Manly Warringah Dolphins	9	6	1	2	23	12	11	19
Ryde City	9	6	1	2	22	16	6	19
Macarthur Rams	9	6	0	3	22	16	6	18
Fraser Park Jets	9	5	0	4	20	14	6	15
Hajduk Wanderers	9	4	1	4	15	17	-2	13
Stanmore Hawks	9	3	1	5	16	16	0	10
Sydney University	9	2	2	5	15	26	-11	8
AC United	9	1	3	5	17	21	-4	6
MSC Liverpool	9	1	2	6	17	26	-9	5
Hurstville City Crescent Star	9	0	1	8	13	36	-23	1



NSW Divisions 1 & 2



DIVISION ONE ROUND-UP

By Paul Goodwin

Bathurst bounced back to record a 1-0 win over a luckless White City at Alex Lamberton Park in Kelso on Sunday, Andrew Loxley getting the all important winner in the 54th minute.

Meanwhile, the hopes of Northern Tigers came to an end when John Gagro's Hurstville ZSC came up with a last-minute winner from the irrepressible Tony Mihaljevic at Parklands Oval.

Hurstville had not had a lot of luck in recent weeks, but the coaches of these two sides have been very close rivals over recent years, especially when Hills United was under the care of Tigers' coach Fred Mesiti, and the win would have been very well received in the Hurstville camp.

Crack outfit Mount Pritchard continue to impress.

Despite Mount Druitt going ahead from a 5th minute Vukosa strike, the Mounties from Cabramatta West hit back with goals from Michael Severino in the 37th and reliable defender Peter Vrlc a minute later.

Peter Suriano provided the

cushion that Daryl Glover's side needed when he made it 3-1 in the 53rd and that was to prove enough to see the men in gold and black home yet again.

Meanwhile Hills United is again showing good form as the season unfolds.

They were able to defeat South Coast side Illawarra Lions 3-2 at Fred Caterson Reserve and the score may have flattered the visitors who only netted themselves in the last 15 minutes after Darren Nash had got the home side ahead shortly before the break and doubled that lead inside the hour mark.

Alan Lindley's 70th minute goal established a 3-0 lead for the locals, but strikes

from Light and Josevski kept their minds on the job as the clock wound down.

A hat trick from Bruno Beddoni helped Western Rage to a 3-0 win over Wanderers Cedars in the other game of the day.

The veteran, who made a huge impact with St George in the recently completed summer Premier League, weighed in with goals in the 2nd, 33rd and 77th minutes to get his side back on track after a heavy loss at Hurstville ZSC the previous weekend.

Belmore Hercules had the bye.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wanderers Cedars	8	6	1	1	18	11	7	19
Mt Pritchard	8	5	0	3	16	10	6	15
Western Rage	8	4	3	1	13	8	5	15
Bathurst '75	9	4	3	2	9	8	1	15
Belmore Hercules	8	3	2	3	8	10	-2	11
Mt Druitt Town	8	3	2	3	7	10	-3	11
Northern Tigers	8	3	1	4	7	6	1	10
Hurstville ZSC	8	3	1	4	14	14	0	10
White City	8	1	3	4	13	16	-3	6
Hills United	8	2	0	6	9	19	-10	6
Illawarra Lions	7	1	2	4	12	14	-2	5

Division Two Wrap-Up

By Paul Goodwin

Liverpool Bossy, one of the early title favourites, ground out a crucial 1-0 win against the star-studded Nepean Association side on Sunday, compensating for a shock loss to Uni of NSW a fortnight earlier.

Bossy's form has stood up well, this coming just a week after they had posted a 5-1 win at Mingara Lakers.

Kacanic was able to break the deadlock against Nepean in the 65th minute, much to the delight of the newly promoted club's vocal band of supporters.

Meanwhile, another of the clubs keen to impress in this season's strong and well balanced Second Division competition, Parramatta City, slumped to a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Hakoah, who have shown some sound form under their new mentor John Turner in recent weeks.

Hakoah did lose badly the previous week to a fired up Nepean Association side that included many of Turner's former charges at Fairfield Bulls, with Bulls' former skipper, Paul Richardson, running the show in the centre of the park that day. This time it was Hakoah's turn to run things.

This week it did look as if Hakoah might have to settle for a point, despite dominating for much of the first half and then going to the sheds still scoreless.

All that changed when the home side produced some high quality goals to go on and win the game with a flourish.

John Pillemer, fresh from a full season of NSW Premier League action with Canterbury-Marrickville, began the onslaught when he careered away down the left from his wing-back position. The wily player then cut infield and advanced to the 25 yard mark where he unleashed an unstoppable, ankle-high, shot, that deceived an apparently unsighted Parramatta keeper and nestled in the back of the net in the 50th minute.

This signalled the start of Hakoah's scoring spree.

Adam Mammoliti then beat two defenders before finding the net from fully 30 yards, taking a leaf out of Pillemer's book.

Mammoliti, playing a text book exchange of passes

with veteran striker Terry Sperber and David Petrini, went on to beat the keeper again, in the 80th minute, but not before Murray had pulled a goal back for Parramatta.

Murray was on hand when a corner had been only parried by the Hakoah keeper in the 70th minute.

To seal the issue completely, however, Pillemer set up Adam Joseph for the fourth goal in the 90th, his initial effort being pushed away, but Joseph, keeping a cool head, dragged the ball wide before tucking it away nicely as the keeper attempted to scramble back into position.

Another of the more successful sides in the division is Auburn Star, but they made hard work of what looked on paper to be a straightforward assignment against Mingara Lakers at Jensen Park.

Taner Omac had opened

the scoring in the 25th minute but free scoring John Peros hit back in the 38th and it needed a goal from Erel to settle the issue in the 58th minute with the game poised on a knife edge for most of the last half-hour.

Stan Ackerley's Schofields Scorpions met their match in a revitalised Uni of NSW, fighting hard all the way, but succumbing to a late winner from Nick Kodomichalos.

The visitors' top scorer in recent campaigns, Kodomichalos, was able to nab the winner in the 87th after Shane Cevenini had, in the 60th minute, cancelled out a 5th minute opener from Minic.

Greystanes continue to post useful results, their latest a 4-2 win at hapless and winless Holy Cross Ryde. Two goals in each half allowed Mark Crittenden's side to register a 4-2 win. Trevor Bardsley opening the scoring in the 21st minute and Robbie Gibson adding to the tally shortly before the break.

While Mata did pull one back for the home side in the 55th minute further goals from Anthony La Grazia in the 59th and Brad Racker in the 65th proved quite enough and a second goal in the 80th minute by the Collegians failed to make much of an impression.

Camden Tigers had the bye.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool Bossy	9	6	2	1	18	9	9	20
Nepean Association	8	6	0	2	22	7	15	18
Auburn Star	8	5	1	2	26	16	10	16
Hakoah	9	5	1	3	21	18	3	16
Parramatta City	8	5	0	3	17	12	5	15
Greystanes SC	8	4	1	3	17	15	2	13
Schofields S'pions	8	4	0	4	12	10	2	12
University of NSW	8	3	1	4	13	15	-2	10
Camden Tigers	8	3	0	5	14	16	-2	9
Mingara Lakers	8	1	0	7	6	23	-17	3
Holy Cross Ryde	8	0	0	8	5	30	-25	0

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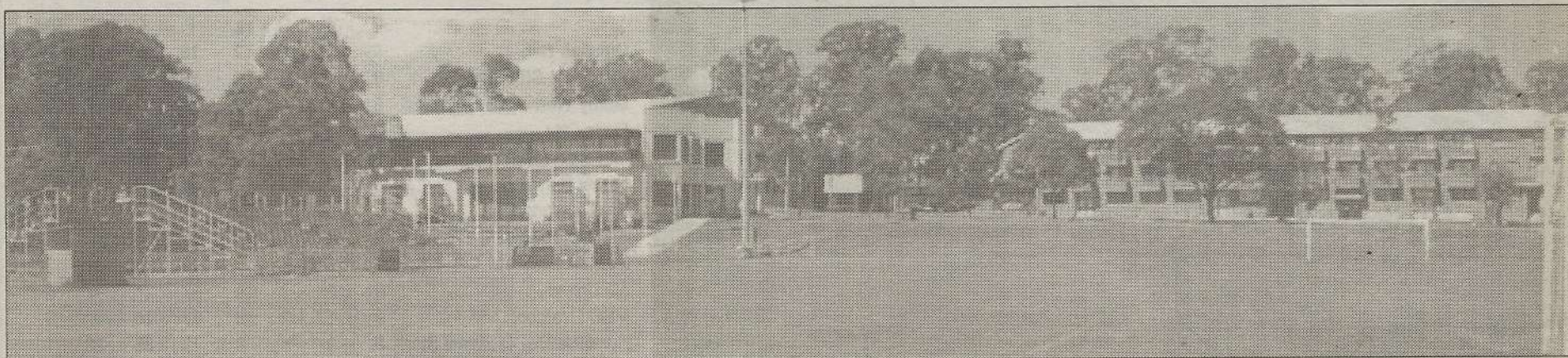
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NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE R11

Blacktown City Demons v Northern Spirit

Northern Spirit maintained their place at the top of the Combined Table as they collected nine very valuable points at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday. In the 13s Spirit were forced to work overtime to gain the points. In fact, the Demons took control of the first half but failed to convert two excellent chances to score.

A second half defensive error allowed Nathan to score the only goal of the game for the competition leaders. While the Demons continued to press forward the visitors went home with the points. You had to be there to believe the 14s game.

Brendan Maroney gave the fifth-placed Demons a well deserved half-time lead over the leaders. Then Spirit caught the home team napping immediately after the break with a goal from William Thom.

While the Demons gave their best efforts to finding a second goal through a second half domination of possession it was Spirit who stole the points in the final thirty seconds when Adam Biddle took full advantage of a defensive error.

It was a very committed Spirit that took the field in the 15s and they looked the goods against the lacklustre Demons.

A second half strike from Shaun Bowden provided the visitors with the only goal of the game and ensured that they would claim the points. The competition leading Demons 17s continued their winning ways with another outstanding performance, this time against a rather disappointing Spirit.

Dean Storey and Jordon Simpson gave the Demons a two goal buffer at halftime and then Storey added another in the second stanza to seal the result.

Southern Branch v St George

The battle for the Combined Table wooden spoon took place at South Nowra on Saturday with the clubs splitting the points equally.

As expected, St George took the full ration of points in the 13s with a 2-0 win and then the Saints went on with the job in the 14s with a 3-1 victory.

At that stage the home club took control of proceedings with their 15s recording a 1-0 result over the Saints who are yet to win a game and then the Les Hodges coached 17s continued the good work, posting a 3-1 final score line over their guests.



Mark Natti: Under 15s Northern Spirit.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE R11

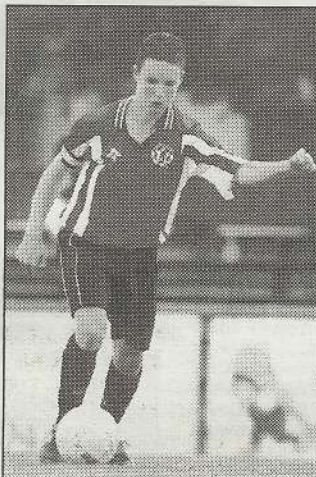
Hills United v Blacktown Association

This local derby always has some spice about it and this time it looked like being more of the same. Blacktown drew first blood when their rapidly improving 13s stepped up to bag a 2-0 result.

This team had been struggling at the beginning of the season but development Coach Keith Healey took charge to provide them with some intensive instruction and they have not looked back.

Be de Haan's 14s continued the good work for the visitors with a 1-0 win and they will maintain their place at the top end of the table. However, that was to the end of the joy for Blacktown as Hills then showed why they are better placed on the Combined Table. Their 15s scored a single goal against the Bob Daley coached visitors and netted all the points as a result.

It must be said that the end result was closer than expected considering their relative positions on the competition table. The same could be said for the 17s where third-placed Hills won only 2-0 against the cellar-dwelling Blacktown who have really had a hard time of it throughout the season.



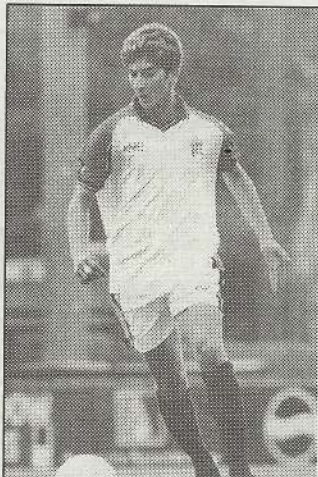
Stephen Kayes: Blacktown Under 15s.

Macarthur Rams v Hajduk Wanderers

The Rams had a fabulous day at Lynwood Park against their neighbours on the Combined Table as they kept ten extremely valuable points in their pockets.

The 13s started the day well with a stunning 6-1 over the visitors and then the Bill Garriock coached 14s continued the good work posted a 5-1 success over the Wanderers to maintain the pressure on the competition leading Newcastle.

Mark Williams's 15s have been having a hard time in the competition so far and their share of the points in a six goal thriller will be



Omar Obeld: Under 17s Northern Spirit.

seen as a good sign for the future.

It came as a great surprise that Glenn Lockhart's 17s, who have been camped at the bottom end of the table for most of the season, came out and produced a 4-1 win over their far better performed opponents.

DIV ONE YOUTH LEAGUE RD 11

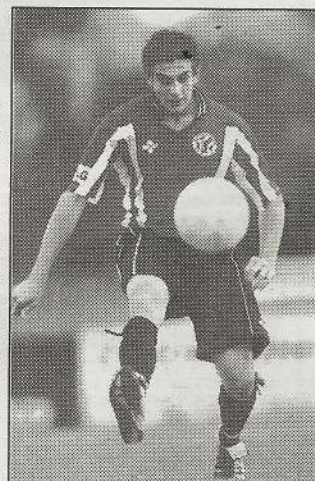
Schofield Scorpions v Camden Tigers

This was the match of the season for these two clubs as they fight it out for top place on the Combined Table.

The Tigers started the day eighteen points ahead of their rivals but that was to be whittled back to nine points by the final blast of the referee's whistle on Saturday afternoon.

The Scorpions showed that they meant business from the very start as they put together a 4-1 win with the home team's goals coming from M. Coore (2), A. Cruceanu and B. Kershaw while the visitors goal was provided by Barry Mathis. Building on the foundations provided in the 13s, the mid-table Scorpions 14s produced a real shock with C. Calleja proving the goal for a 1-0 win over the Steve Bowers coached Tigers who were in second place.

After two consecutive draws it was perhaps inevitable that Trevor Davis' table-topping Tigers 15s were due for their first loss for they season and that in fact happened as the Scorpions' M. Norris provided the only goal of the game. The Tigers finally earned a point for their days toil in the 17s where L. Camaj scored for the home team and Matt Beattie got one for the visitors. This result will be seen as a bit of a shock when the relative positions on the competition table are compared.



Michael Arcuri: Blacktown Under 17s.

Mt Pritchard v Granville Association

The Mounties had a reasonably good day of it at their beloved Cook Park on Saturday as they grabbed nine points from the visiting Granville Association to stay in touch with the top group on the Combined Table.

Granville bagged the first points for the day with a 2-1 win in the 13s but that was to be the end of their joy.

The home club bounced back immediately to post a win by the same score in the 14s and then they produced a minor shock in the 15s with a 2-0 victory in a game Granville would have expected to win.

As expected, the Mounties 17s polished off the day with a comprehensive 4-0 win to edge closer a top five berth.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 12

Sat 18 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Marconi Stallions	v Southern Branch
Sydney Utd SC	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Sydney United	v Leichhardt Tigers
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Penrith Panthers	v Central Coast
Christie Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Northern Spirit	v Olympic Sharks
St George Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	St George	v Wollongong Wolves
Melita Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Parramatta Eagles	v Sutherland Shire
Gabbie Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Blacktown City	v Manly Warringah

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 12

Sat 18 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Cook Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Nepean Assoc	v Fairfield Bulls
Francis Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Blacktown Assoc	v Mingara Lakers
Macquarie Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Newcastle United	v Macarthur Rams
Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	v AC United
Serbian Centre	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	C'bury Marrickville	v Bonnyrigg WE
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bankstown City	v Ku-Ring-Gai
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Eastern Suburbs	v Hills United
Sun 19 May						
Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Fairfield Bulls	v Blacktown Assoc

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 12

Sat 18 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Garside Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Granville Assoc	v Stanmore Hawks
CSI Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Schofields S'pions	v Hurstville City CS
Popondetta Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mt Druitt Town	v Ryde City
Eric Primrose Res	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Parramatta City	v Illawarra Lions
Hammondville Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	MSC Liverpool	v Mt Pritchard
Arlington Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	v Camden Tigers
Benson's Lane	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hawkesbury City	v Rockdale City

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 12

Sat 18 May	U11	U12		
Gabbie Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Blacktown City Demons	v Manly Warringah
St George Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	St George	v Wollongong Wolves
Melita Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v Sutherland Shire
Christie Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Northern Spirit	v Olympic Sharks
Sun 19 May				
Allambi Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sydney United	v Leichhardt Tigers
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Marconi Stallions	v Southern Branch
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Penrith Panthers	v Central Coast

SUPER CADET LEAGUE RD 7

Sun 19 May	U11	U12		
Mingara Club	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Mingara Lakers	v Hajduk Wanderers
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Bankstown City Cubs	v Eastern Suburbs
Serbian Centre	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v AC United
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hills United	v Canterbury M'ville
Lynwood Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Macarthur Rams	v Fairfield Bulls

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 7

Sun 19 May	U11	U12		
Arlington Oval	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Stanmore Hawks	v Camden Tigers
Hammondville Park	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	MSC Liverpool	v Hawkesbury City
Eric Primrose Res	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Parramatta City	v Ryde City
Rockdale Illinden	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Rockdale City Suns	v Mt Druitt Town
Cook Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Pritchard	v Illawarra Lions
CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Schofield Scorpions	v Hurstville City CS



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 11: GRADE 13: Wollongong Wolves 1 Parramatta Eagles 2, Southern Branch YL 0 St George 2, Marconi Stallions 2, Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Penrith Panthers 2, Central Coast Coasties 0 Olympic Sharks 0, Blacktown City Demons 0 Northern Spirit 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Sydney United 0. **GRADE 14:** Wollongong Wolves 3 Parramatta Eagles 3, Southern Branch YL 1 St George 3, Marconi Stallions 4, Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Penrith Panthers 0, Central Coast Coasties 0 Olympic Sharks 3, Blacktown City Demons 1 Northern Spirit 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Sydney United 4. **GRADE 15:** Wollongong Wolves 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Southern Branch YL 1 St George 0, Marconi Stallions 4, Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Penrith Panthers 1, Central Coast Coasties 1 Olympic Sharks 2, Blacktown City Demons 0 Northern Spirit 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Sydney United 4.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 11: GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams 6 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mingara Lakers 0 Newcastle United 5, AC United 1 Canterbury Marrickville 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 Nepean Association 2, Fairfield Bulls 3 Eastern Suburbs Association 2, Hills United 0 Blacktown Association 2. **GRADE 14:** Macarthur Rams 5 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mingara Lakers 0 Newcastle United 1, AC United 5 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Bankstown City Cubs 3, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0 Nepean Association 1, Fairfield Bulls 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 2, Hills United 0 Blacktown Association 1. **GRADE 15:** Macarthur Rams 3 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mingara Lakers 1 Newcastle United 4, AC United 3 Canterbury Marrickville 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Bankstown City Cubs 2, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 Nepean Association 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 0, Hills United 2 Blacktown Association 0.



Samuel Jacob (Northern Spirit) fends off a Blacktown City challenge in the Under 15s game at the Gabba last Saturday.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 11: GRADE 13: Schofield Scorpions 4 Camden Tigers 1, Ryde City 2 Parramatta City 2, Illawarra Lions 1 MSC Liverpool 1, Mt Pritchard 1 Granville Association 2, Stanmore Hawks 1 Dulwich Hill 1, Hurstville City 1, Rockdale City 1. **GRADE 14:** Schofield Scorpions 1 Camden Tigers 0, Ryde City 1 Parramatta City 1, Illawarra Lions 1 MSC Liverpool 2, Mt Pritchard 2 Granville Association 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 1, Hurstville City 1, Rockdale City 1. **GRADE 15:** Schofield Scorpions 1 Camden Tigers 0, Ryde City 2 Parramatta City 1, Illawarra Lions 1 MSC Liverpool 2, Mt Pritchard 2 Granville Association 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 0, Hurstville City 1, Rockdale City 1. **GRADE 17:** Schofield Scorpions 1 Camden Tigers 1, Ryde City 0 Parramatta City 1, Illawarra Lions 4 MSC Liverpool 2, Mt Pritchard 4 Granville Association 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 0, Hurstville City 1, Rockdale City 1.

12: Marconi Stallions 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Penrith Panthers 0, Central Coast Coasties 1 Olympic Sharks 1, Blacktown City Demons 0 Northern Spirit 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Sydney United 0, Southern Branch YL 0 St George 1, Wollongong Wolves 2 Parramatta Eagles 1.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: GRADE 11: Hajduk Wanderers 4 Fairfield Bulls 0, Hills United 0 Macarthur Rams 2, Mingara Lakers 3 Eastern Suburbs Association 3, Bankstown City Cubs 1 AC United 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Canterbury Marrickville 1. **GRADE 12:** Hajduk Wanderers 0 Fairfield Bulls 2, Hills United 0 Macarthur Rams 1, Mingara Lakers 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 7, Bankstown City Cubs 1 AC United 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Canterbury Marrickville 1.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 6: GRADE 11: Camden Tigers 4 MSC Liverpool 1, Hawkesbury City 1 Parramatta City 0, Ryde City 9 Rockdale City Suns 0, Mt Pritchard 1 Mt Pritchard 2, Illawarra Lions 3 Hurstville City 1, Schofield Scorpions 4 Stanmore Hawks 0. **GRADE 12:** Camden Tigers 2 MSC Liverpool 1, Hawkesbury City 0 Parramatta City 0, Ryde City 1 Rockdale City Suns 1, Mt Pritchard 2 Mt Pritchard 0, Illawarra Lions 0 Hurstville City 1, Schofield Scorpions 4 Stanmore Hawks 0.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	11	9	2	0	28	10	18	29
Parramatta Eagles	11	9	2	0	26	9	17	29
Leichhardt Tigers	11	6	2	3	19	18	1	20
Olympic Sharks	11	5	4	2	13	6	7	19
Penrith Panthers	11	5	3	3	16	12	4	18
Blacktown City	10	5	2	3	20	7	13	17
St George	11	5	1	5	19	21	-2	16
Marconi Stallions	10	4	3	4	15	11	4	15
Central Coast	11	3	4	4	16	16	0	13
Manly Warringah	11	3	2	6	11	16	-5	11
Sutherland Shire	11	3	2	6	12	23	-11	11
Sydney United	11	1	3	7	8	18	-10	6
Wollongong Wolves	11	1	1	9	9	20	-11	4
Southern Branch YL	11	1	1	9	9	34	-25	4

GRADE 14:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	11	9	2	0	44	11	33	29
Olympic Sharks	11	7	3	1	33	9	24	24
Marconi Stallions	10	7	3	0	24	10	14	24
Blacktown City	10	6	2	2	21	9	12	20
Central Coast	11	5	2	4	17	21	-4	17
Penrith Panthers	11	4	3	4	13	12	1	15
Leichhardt Tigers	11	4	2	5	8	22	-14	14
Sydney United	11	3	3	5	19	20	-1	12
Sutherland Shire	11	3	3	5	9	17	-8	12
Parramatta Eagles	11	2	5	4	13	16	-3	11
Manly Warringah	11	3	2	6	7	19	-12	9
St George	11	2	3	6	11	25	-14	9
Wollongong Wolves	11	2	2	7	12	20	-8	8
Southern Branch YL	11	1	1	9	10	30	-20	4

GRADE 15:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic Sharks	11	10	1	0	43	6	37	31
Marconi Stallions	10	8	1	1	28	7	21	25
Parramatta Eagles	11	7	1	3	30	13	17	22
Sydney United	11	6	3	2	19	8	11	21
Wollongong Wolves	11	7	0	4	23	14	9	21
Northern Spirit	11	6	2	3	23	11	12	20
Blacktown City	10	6	1	3	21	8	13	19
Sutherland Shire	11	4	2	5	9	13	-4	14
Penrith Panthers	11	4	0	7	8	30	-22	12
Central Coast	11	3	2	6	15	10	5	11
Southern Branch YL	11	3	1	7	5	21	-16	10
Leichhardt Tigers	11	3	0	8	6	41	-35	9
Manly Warringah	11	0	2	9	6	27	-21	2
St George	11	0	2	9	4	26	-22	2

GRADE 17:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	10	9	0	1	26	9	17	27
Wollongong Wolves	11	7	1	3	19	8	11	22
Olympic Sharks	10	7	0	3	24	12	12	21
Sutherland Shire	11	7	0	4	18	20	-2	21
Northern Spirit	11	6	2	3	18	9	9	20
Penrith Panthers	11	6	2	3	21	15	6	20
Parramatta Eagles	11	4	2	5	12	15	-3	14
Leichhardt Tigers	11	4	1	6	25	18	7	13
Sydney United	11	4	1	6	19	17	2	13
Marconi Stallions	10	4	0	6	14	20	-6	12
Central Coast	11	3	3	5	8	17	-9	12
Manly Warringah	11	3	0	8	11	22	-11	9
Southern Branch YL	10	2	3	5	16	30	-14	9
St George	11	1	1	9	12	31	-19	4

COMBINED:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	44	30	8	6	113	41	72	98
Olympic Sharks	43	29	8	6	113	33	80	95
Blacktown City	40	26	5	9	88	33	55	83
Marconi Stallions	40	23	7	10	81	48	33	76
Parramatta Eagles	44	22	10	12	81	53	28	76
Penrith Panthers	44	19	8	17	58	69	-11	65
Sutherland Shire	44	17	7	20	48	73	-25	58
Leichhardt Tigers	44	17	5	22	58	99	-41	56
Wollongong Wolves	44	17	4	23	63	62	1	55
Central Coast	44	14	11	19	56	69	-13	53
Sydney United	44	14	10	20	65	63	2	52
Manly Warringah	44	9	6	29	35	84	-49	33
St George	44	8	7	29	46	103	-57	31
Southern Branch YL	43	7	6	30	40	115	-75	27

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Assoc	11	9	2	0	38	8	30	29
Newcastle United	11	8	3	0	32	4	28	27
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	11	6	3	2	33	17	16	21
Macarthur Rams	11	7	0	4	32	19	13	21
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	6	1	4	23	22	1	19
Mingara Lakers	11	6	1	4	11	19	-8	19
Fairfield Bulls	10	5	1	4	26	20	6	16
Bankstown City Cubs	11	4	3	4	9	16	-7	15
Blacktown Assoc	10	4	1	5	11	21	-10	13
Hajduk Wanderers	11	3	3	5	17	28	-11	12

Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc 11 2 2 7 7 17-10 8
Canterbury Marrickville 11 1 3 7 12 32-20 6
AC United 11 1 2 8 14 27-13 5
Hills United 11 0 3 8 4 19-15 3



Northern Spirit's Under 17s player Mark Dolla.

GRADE 14:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	11	9	2	0	30	6	24	29
Macarthur Rams	11	9	1	1	35	4	31	28
AC United	11	7	3	1	29	10	19	24
Blacktown Assoc	10	7	1	2	24	10	14	22
Nepean Assoc	11	6	1	4	16	15	1	19
Hajduk Wanderers	11	6	1	4	19	19	0	19
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	4	1	5	16	23	-7	13
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	10	3	3	4	12	14	-2	12
Bankstown City Cubs	11	3	3	5	15	20	-5	12
Fairfield Bulls	10	3	2	5	13	19	-6	11
Hills United	11	3	0	8	15	24	-9	9
Mingara Lakers	11	2	3	6	6	17	-11	9
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	11	1	1	9	10	31	-21	4
Canterbury Marrickville	11	0	2	9	3	31	-28	2



A strong Northern Spirit tackle on Blacktown's Peter Pham in the Under 15s.

GRADE 15:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bankstown City Cubs	11	10	1	0	29	3	26	31
Newcastle United	11	7	3	1	33	9	24	24
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	11	6	3	2	24	10	14	21
AC United	11	5	3	3	22	16	6	18
Hills United	11	5	2	4	22	17	5	17
Fairfield Bulls	10	5	2	3	18	10	8	17
Mingara Lakers	11	4	2	5	19	25	-6	14
Nepean Assoc	11	3	4	4	16	21	-5	13
Canterbury Marrickville	11	3	3	5	10	22	-12	12
Blacktown Assoc	10	2	4	4	10	13	-3	10
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	11	2	3	6	15	23	-8	9
Hajduk Wanderers	11	0	8	3	13	21	-8	8
Macarthur Rams	11	1	3	7	12	23	-11	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	1	3	7	5	27	-22	6

GRADE 17:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	11	10	1	0	50	11	39	31
Hills United	11	9	1	1	16	5	21	28
Mingara Lakers	11	8	1	2	28	10	18	25
AC United	11	6	3	2	24	13	11	21
Bankstown City Cubs	11	6	2	3	27	19	8	20
Hajduk Wanderers	11	5	2	4	26	23	3	17
Fairfield Bulls	10	4	2	4	21	26	-5	14
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	11	4	1	6	16	25	-9	13
Canterbury Marrickville	11	3	3	5	14	23	-9	12
Macarthur Rams	11	2	3	6	21	33	-12	9
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	11	2	2	7	10	28	-18	8
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	2	1	8	18	31	-13	7
Blacktown Assoc	10	2	0	8	8	26	-18	6
Nepean Assoc	11	1	2	8	15	31	-16	5

COMBINED:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	44	34	9	1	145	30	115	111
Bankstown City Cubs	44	23	9	12	80	58	22	78
AC United	44	19	11	14	89	66	23	68
Mingara Lakers	44	20	7	17	64	71	-7	67
Nepean Assoc	44	19	9	16	85	75	10	66
Macarthur Rams	44	19	7	18	100	79	21	64
Fairfield Bulls	40	17	7	16	78	83	-5	58
Hills United	44	17	6	21	67	65	2	57
Hajduk Wanderers	44	14	14	16	75	91	-16	56
Blacktown Assoc	40	15	6	19	53	70	-17	51
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	43	13						



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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

I get asked a lot, 'What do the administrators of the game do for this great sport?' The Amateurs thankfully are very successful and the organisation as a business is very strong.

It is our responsibility however, to increase the marketability of the sport, provide the lowest

possible fees to players, and increase the level of participation of soccer players.

It is a well published fact that our governing body has performed poorly, requiring substantial increases in their levies to prop them up.

We are seeing a major restructure in Soccer Australia's organisation but I see Soccer

Australia only succeeding with increased communication and the combined support of the State Federations.

We are closer to the grass roots and frankly it is the Australian Soccer Player, mums, dads and fans that is the will of soccer in Australia!

"THE AVOCA 6-1'S"



(L-R) Shaun Swanson, James Jenkins, Rhys Edwards, Lachlan Steer, James Sawyer, Luke Hayter, Mitchell Dewar (away Ben Tate).

One of the youngest clubs on the Central coast, Avoca Soccer club was formed in 1995 with a humble beginning of 124 players from ages 5 to 13 years.

During the past six years the club has grown and in 1999 boasted 500 registered players with a milestone in 2002 when their teams flowed from 5 years up to Premier League.

With a fresh new committee, Avoca Soccer Club are looking now to increase their numbers but remain restricted by the fact that they are the only Soccer Club on the Central Coast without a

CLUB OF THE WEEK

AVOCA

SOCCER CLUB

home ground!

After years of promises, the Gosford City Council recently allocated the new 'Ozanam' sporting field to another sport and so for the moment Avoca remain homeless.

This won't dampen the spirit of Avoca and the teams and players will play on regardless.

The game of soccer is alive and well on the NSW Central Coast and Avoca Soccer Club is one of the clubs that are the proof in the pudding! Play on!

2002 NSW COUNTRY STATE TEAMS ANNOUNCED

The five NSW Country State teams have now been selected. The teams represented are Under 14, 15, 16 boys and Under 14 and 17 girls.

Under 14 Boys NSW Country State Team

Jason Ryan, captain, Rohan Wilson, vice-captain, Jared Mooney, Brent Farnsworth, Daniel Quarisa, Tim Gater, Corey Ryan, James Alcorn, Cory Anderson, Brent Wilson, Daniel Collison, Hamish Leslie, Nathan Burns, John Holden, Jade Hadfield, Jason Harvie

Stand-by Players:

Mitchell Bestwick, Mark Butler

Manager: Bryson Rees

Coach: Ray Tweedie

Asst Coach: Mark Leman

Under 15 Boys NSW Country State Team

Brendan Boney, captain, Matthew Costello, vice-captain, Michael Andrews, Adam Blacka, Michael Cox, Jordan Hale, Thomas Johnson,

Andrew Keady, Michael Long, Dominic Nardi, Carmelo Panarello, Dustin Patten, Decha Saisanid, Adam Small, Aaron Watterson, Mitchell Woodward

Stand-by Players:

Blake Coates, Aaron Sergi

Manager: Frank Wilson

(temp)

Coach: Richard Evans

Asst Coach: Dale Ambler

Trainer: Paul Brown

Under 16 Boys NSW Country State Team

William Markwick, captain, Padaric Quinn, vice-captain, Jim Blunn, James Butcher, Matthew Cox, Brody Crane, Scott Evennett, James Gilmore, Mitchell Grant, James Heath, Jordan Lando, Dominic Manca, Chris Price, Ryan Roche, Matthew Simon, Alex Yule

Stand-by Players:

Ricky Guihot, Chris Fitzsimmons

Manager: David Goodman

Coach: Richard Kocass

Asst Coach: Wayne Farnsworth

Trainer: Les Edwards

Under 14 Girls NSW Country State Team

Michelle Bocska, Larissa Bundy, Elle Crowe, Billie-Jo Fisher, Lindsay Glohe, Vanessa Hart, Clare Hill, Shannon Hickey, Le-Tisha Kable, Rachelle Kelly, Jocelyn Mara, Kylie Meehan, Cassandra O'Leary, Elisha O'Mara, Tara Pyers, Ellie Stottott

Stand-By Players:

Kayla Herbert, Sarah Hope

Manager: Jenny Madden

Coach: Peter Page

Asst Coach: Hayden Appo

Trainer: Karen Leonard

Under 17 Girls NSW Country State Team

Kate Lawson, captain, Virginia Clancy, vice-captain, Renee Aberley, Samantha Blacka, Renee Cartwright, Krystle Cassidy, Any

Chapman, Geoley, Samantha Blacka, Renee Cartwright, Krystle Cassidy, Any Chapman, Georgia Chapman, Stephanie Finn, Cassie Halloway, Lucy McClymont, Cian Maciejewski, Nicole Monks, Belinda Muldoon, Kaitlyn Sheppard, Sally Shipardk

Coach: Norm Boardman

Asst Coach: Jeff Blake

Trainer: Rob Laws

JUNIOR LEAGUE FIXTURES

ROUND 9

DATES	TEAMS	AGE	GROUNDS	TIME
Sunday 19 May	Sutherland v Highlands	11	Bates Drive	10:00
Sunday 19 May	Granville v Central Coast	11	Garside Park	10:00
Sunday 19 May	Blacktown v Nepean	11	Francis Park	10:00
Sunday 19 May	Blacktown v Nepean	12	Francis Park	11:00
Sunday 19 May	Granville v Central Coast	12	Garside Park	11:00
Sunday 19 May	Sutherland v Highlands	12	Bates Drive	11:00
Sunday 19 May	Ku-Ring-Gai v Bankstown	11	Parklands Oval	12:30
Sunday 19 May	Ku-Ring-Gai v Bankstown	12	Parklands Oval	1:30

NSWASF Competition Information visit

www.nswasf.com.au



GROUP F



The term group of death is put on one or two groups in the early stages and this is it for 2002. As well as previous winners England and Argentina two teams with strong World Cup pedigrees in Nigeria and Sweden are also in the group. Sweden won their group conceding just three goals in ten games so it would be unwise to say it is between England and Argentina. Nigeria has proved before they can not be discounted. England have talented youngsters whilst Argentina roared through the South American qualifiers. There should be a lot of entertainment emanating from this group.

HEAD TO HEAD PREVIEW

England v Sweden: Sweden makes their return to the finals after missing 1998. In 1994 the side almost went all the way and the team have two managers in charge. There are also two Swedes in the English coaching staff, namely Eriksson and Grip. England are traditionally fairly slow starters but will need to get a good start in this group. Sweden too will be looking to put the pressure on early and this could turn out to be a hard fought draw. Sweden and England have never played against each other in the finals. In fact of the eight appearances Sweden has made in the finals England missed out on four (of the six times they have not been in the finals).

Argentina v Nigeria: These two sides clashed in USA 1994 and the 2-1 lead the South Americans took into half time was the final score. That was the middle game of the group stage but this time they clash in the first round. Every Argentine supporter remembers the opening game of 1990 against African side Cameroon so there should be no underestimation of Nigeria. On paper this looks to be no contest as Argentina should win well and should they stumble at this stage they could really struggle so there will be no let up on the African team.

Sweden v Nigeria: Should England or Argentina slip up along the way this clash should determine who goes through to stage two. Sweden has a better chance of being in a positive mind frame after the first match. Nigeria's last match in the finals was against Nordic opposition in Denmark and they were thumped 1-4 so they will be hoping for revenge on their neighbours instead.

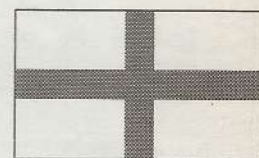
England v Argentina: Quite possibly the game of all the group matches. The history between the two nations is well documented and there will be no quarter given in 2002 either. Four times they have met in the finals with England having scored seven goals and Argentina five. The English have won twice, the Argentine's once and a 2-2 draw in the last match. Argentina will again go in as slight favourites.

Sweden v Argentina: By this stage the only thing Argentina might be playing for is avoiding second place. However this is motivation in itself as the second placed team in this group will probably play France in the group of 16. Sweden will be hoping they are the ones still shooting for top spot. Sweden has only played Argentina once in the finals and that was way back in 1934. In fact this was Sweden's first ever game in the finals and they won it 3-2. Should they reproduce this effort in 2002 then they should qualify for the second phase. Argentina on the other hand will be favourites to tie the head to head tally at 1-1.

Nigeria v England: These teams have never met in the finals before but this could almost be an elimination game in itself. England will definitely be relying on these three points to qualify. Nigeria will be hoping to squeeze past the English and combine that with a draw in the Sweden Argentina game, thereby making it through to the semis. They may not be the best team out of Africa anymore but they are still very dangerous. For the first time in this group England should go into this game as clear favourites.



ENGLAND



The English have seen a number of youngsters progress over the last four years and they are probably a much better team than they were in the 90's. However it is probably one World Cup too early for the English to progress all the way in this tournament. Sven-Goran Eriksson has introduced a new way of thinking into the national team and having so many foreign players in the top flight of England means many of the players are used to differing styles of footballers.

In the end though the English fans will probably walk away disappointed once more. If they keep Eriksson though they can probably look forward to 2008 with some confidence.

Achievements in Major Competitions:

- Quarter-final 1954 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1962 FIFA World Cup
- Champion 1966 FIFA World Cup
- 4th 1990 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd UEFA European Championship 1968
- Semi-final UEFA European Championship 1996

Qualified:

Won European Group 9 Pld 8 W 5 D 2 L 1 F 16 A 6
Pts 17 (Against Germany, Finland, Greece and Albania.)



English Squad

Schedule

England v Sweden Saitama 19:30 AEST
Sunday 2nd June (SBS) England v Argentina Sapporo
21:30 AEST Friday 7th June (Nine - tbc)
England v Nigeria Osaka 16:00 AEST
Wednesday 12th June (SBS)

Finals record:

England PLD 45 W 20 D 11 L 14 F 62 A 42 Total
Points in group stages 40 (at Half time F26 A14)
Penalty Shoot outs F8 A6

A Country Profile: England (part of the United Kingdom)

Population: 46,500,824

Form of Govt: Constitutional Monarchy

Population density: 236.2 per square km

Life expectancy: 77.6

Infant Mortality: 5.8 (per 1000)

Language: English

Literacy Rate: 99%

Religion: Anglican 63%

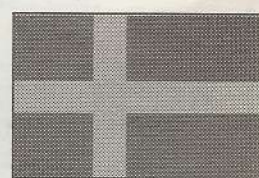
Economy: Industry 20%, Agriculture 2%, Services 78%

Odds:

\$15 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



SWEDEN



The Swedes are looking to do even better than in 1994 when they came third. They then disastrously failed to qualify last time around. This time they will need to get an upset or two on the board to make it through to round two but as is possible to see by their 1994 efforts, Sweden never gives up.

Achievements in Major Competitions:

- 4th 1938 FIFA World Cup
- Final Group 1950 World Cup
- 2nd 1958 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd 1994 FIFA World Cup
- Semi-final UEFA European Championship 1992
- Champion Olympic Games 1948

Qualified:

Winners of European Group 4 (against)
Pld 10 W 8 D 2 L 0 F 20 A 3 Pts 26 (other teams in the group were; Turkey, Slovakia, Macedonia FYR, Moldova, Azerbaijan.)

Schedule:

Sweden v England Saitama 19:30 AEST
Sunday 2nd June (SBS)



Swedish Squad

Sweden v Nigeria Kobe 16:00 AEST
Friday 7th June (SBS)

Sweden v Argentina Miyagi 18:50 AEST
Wednesday 12th June (Delayed to this time on SBS)

Finals record: Sweden PLD 35 W 12 D 10 L 13 F 55
A 51 Total Points in group stages: 25
(at half time F 24 A 19) Penalty shoot outs: F 5 A 4.

A Country Profile: Kingdom of Sweden

Population: 8,911,296

Form of Govt: Constitutional Monarchy

Population density: 19.8 per square km

Life expectancy: 79.3

Infant Mortality: 3.9 (per 1000)

Language: Swedish

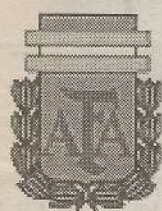
Literacy Rate: 99%

Religion: Evangelical Lutheran 94%

Economy: Industry 28%, Agriculture 3%, Services 69%

Odds:

\$81 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



ARGENTINA



Argentinian Squad

Schedule:

Argentina v Nigeria Ibaraki 15:00 AEST Sunday 2nd June (SBS)
 Argentina v England Sapporo 21:30 AEST Friday 7th June (Nine - tbc)
 Argentina v Sweden Miyagi 18:50 AEST Wednesday 12th June (Delayed to this time on SBS)

Finals record:

Argentina PLD 57 W 32 D 7 L 18 F 100 A 69 Total Points in group stages: 50 (at half time F 45 A 28)
 Penalty Shootouts: F11 A8

A Country Profile: Argentina Republic

Population: 36,737,664
 Form of Govt: Federal Republic
 Population density: 13.3 per square km
 Life expectancy: 74.8
 Infant Mortality: 18.4 (per 1000)
 Language: Spanish
 Literacy Rate: 96%
 Religion: Roman Catholic 90%
 Economy: Industry 34%, Agriculture 13%, Services 53%
 Odds: \$6 - second favourites (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)

Thanks to their success in the qualifiers the Argentinians are one of the raging hot favourites for the World Cup. Although this is a tough group they are well prepared to face each opponent. Midfielder Sebastian Veron has seen the English game at close hand and despite his trials and tribulations at Manchester United he will be a very valuable source of information for his country.

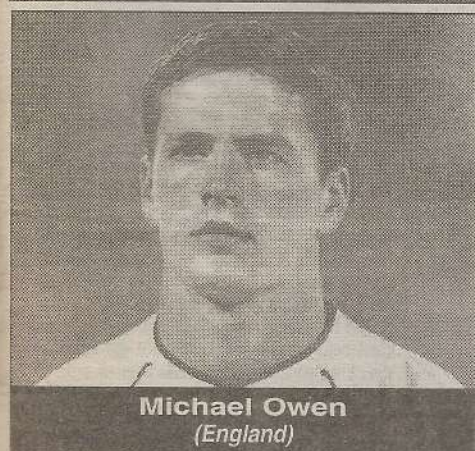
They have quality all over the park and should make it as far as last time (they lost in the quarter finals at the hands of Holland) at least.

Achievements in Major Competitions

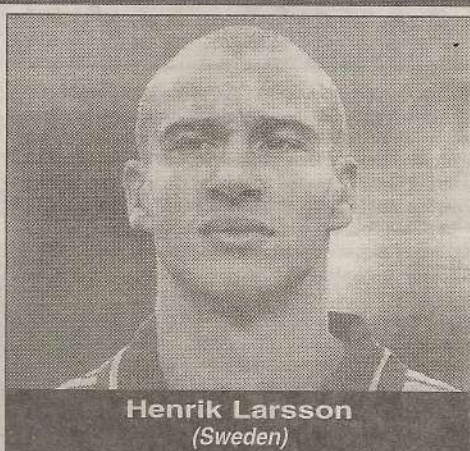
- World Cup Champions 1978, 1986
- Runners up World Cup 1930, 1990
- Copa America Winners 1921, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1937, 1941, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1991, 1993
- Olympic silver medalists 1926, 1996
- FIFA World Youth Championship winners 1979, 1995, 1997, 2001

Qualified:

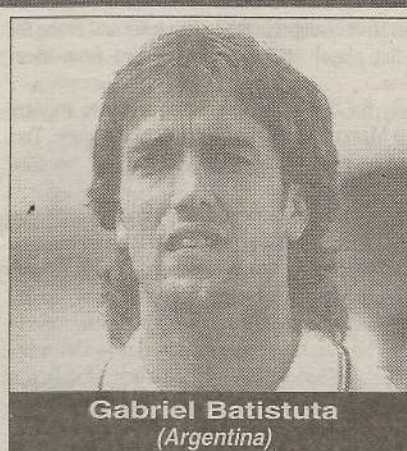
1st in the South American Group: Pld 18 W 13 D 4 L 1 F 42 A 15 Pts 43



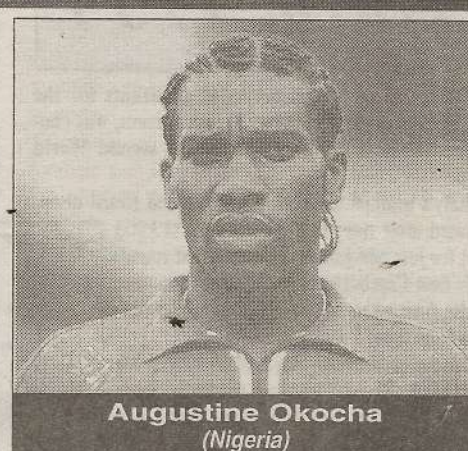
Michael Owen
(England)



Henrik Larsson
(Sweden)



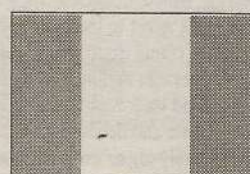
Gabriel Batistuta
(Argentina)



Augustine Okocha
(Nigeria)



NIGERIA



Nigerian Squad

Schedule:

Nigeria v Argentina Ibaraki 15:00 AEST Sunday 2nd June (SBS)
 Nigeria v Sweden Kobe 16:00 AEST Friday 7th June (SBS)
 Nigeria v England Osaka 16:00 AEST Wednesday 12th June (SBS)

Finals record:

Nigeria PLD 8 W 4 D 0 L 4 F 13 A 13 Total Points in group stages 12 (at half time F8 A6)

Nigeria:

A Country Profile: Federal Republic of Nigeria
 Population: 113,828,587
 Form of Govt: Military regime
 Population density: 123.2 per square km
 Life expectancy: 53.3
 Infant Mortality: 69.5 (per 1000)
 Language: English, French
 Literacy Rate: 55.6%
 Religion: Muslim 50%, Christian 40%
 Economy: Industry 4%, Agriculture 45%, Services 51%

Odds:

\$81 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)

This nation's side made a big impact in USA 1994 and again in France 1998. On both occasions they made it to the second round. Perhaps the first time they were underestimated but that can not be said of 1998 and it was not like they had an easy road - defeating the likes of Spain and Bulgaria in the group stages before losing to Denmark in the round of 16.

They will probably benefit from the fact most will write off their chances of progressing again - just the recipe to prove they are a formidable force in World football. The recent plane crash in Lagos has cost the life of their number one fan in then sports minister Ishaya Mark Aku and this has caused some disruption to their preparation, including the cancellation of their warm up match against China.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Champion African Nations Cup 1980, 1994
- Champion Olympic Games 1996
- Champion All African Games 1973
- Champion FIFA u17 World Championship 1993
- Champion FIFA u16 World Championship 1985
- Champion African u20 Championship 1983, 5, 7, 9
- Champion African u17 Championship 2001

Qualified:

Winners African Group B Pld 8 W 5 D 1 L 2 F 15 A 3 Pts 16 (against Liberia, Sudan, Ghana, and Sierra Leone.)



HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP PART A



The organisation of the first FIFA World Cup looked rather different from today's with no qualifying competition, the 13 teams entered by invitation and the final draw was not made until the teams arrived in Uruguay.

France met Mexico in the opening match and duly won 4-1, but the first final was contested by the hosts and their neighbours Argentina.



Uruguay 1930

After trailing 2-1 at the interval, Uruguay went on to prevail 4-2 and thus won the cup which had been designed by French sculptor Abel Lafleur.

Although football was officially born in 1904 with the founding of FIFA, it was not until 1924 and the Olympic tournament in Paris that the international game really came into its own. There for the first time, teams from other continents arrived to take on the Europeans.

The tournament was an unmitigated success: 50,000 spectators watched Uruguay beat Switzerland in the final. In 1928 however, when many nations abstained from the Olympic tournament in Amsterdam, the time was obviously ripe for a new independent football tournament to be established especially in view of the growth of professional football.

On 26 May 1928 in Amsterdam, the FIFA congress voted that a new tournament was to be organised in 1930 which was to be open to all member nations. On 18 May 1929, the Barcelona congress voted that Uruguay should be the first nation to host a FIFA

World Cup.

As holders of the Olympic title and the fact that 1930 marked its 100 years of independence it was appropriate to choose Uruguay to host the first tournament.

Although the news was greeted enthusiastically in all football-playing countries, many European nations harboured reservations about the prospect of crossing the Atlantic, a journey which promised to be long, tiring and costly. Thus, more and more European associations broke their promise to participate.

Two months before the tournament was due to commence not a single European country had entered the competition. Thanks to Rimet's personal efforts, at least four delegations, Belgium, France, Yugoslavia and Romania, set sail on 21 June 1930 from Villefranche-Sur-Mer with the liner "Conte Verde" reaching Rio de Janeiro on 29 June, where they picked up the Brazilian squad and arrived in Montevideo on 4 July.

The first FIFA World Cup only attracted 13 nations, including four Europeans, eight from South America

and a representative team from the United States. On the field of play however, the quality of football produced was of the highest standard.

And whilst the public had expected to see a South American domination, the four teams from Europe did more than hold their own as typified by the French team, beating Mexico 4-1 and going down narrowly to Argentina 1-0 in an epic struggle. The referee, who had blown the final whistle six minutes early, finally - after fierce protests - recalled the players to the field, some of whom were already in the shower!

A few days later in the colossal Centenario stadium (100,000 capacity), the atmosphere was electric as spectators were awaiting the South American final between Uruguay and Argentina. At half-time, Uruguay were down 2-1, but fought back bravely and put three second half goals passed the stunned Argentinians, ending the game with a 4-2 victory.

The FIFA President Jules Rimet presented the "Victoire aux Ailes d'Or" trophy, a statuette 30cm high, made of gold and weighing 4 kg, to the Uruguayan captain José Nazassi.

Celebrations in Montevideo went on for several days and nights and the day after the famous victory, the 31 July, was proclaimed a national holiday. The ball had begun to roll for football's most prestigious prize and the universal nature of the game had been officially proclaimed!

Italy 1934

Italy, one of the unsuccessful applicants for the honour of staging the 1930 tournament, was chosen as host by the FIFA for the second World Cup.

Italy's triumph left both Argentina and Brazil disenchanted after travelling 8,000 miles (13,000 km) for just one game each in the first round. Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 after extra time in the final after trailing 1-0 until eight minutes from time.

Staged between 27 May and 10 June 1934, this FIFA World Cup was markedly more encouraging than its forerunner. Thirty-two nations took part so that a preliminary round was necessary (even the hosts, Italy, had to qualify), which qualified 16 teams for the finals. As a retort to the many withdrawals of European teams four years earlier, several South American nations, such as Argentina and Brazil, did not send their best teams to Italy. Uruguay declined to participate and defend its title.

Predictably then, only European teams reached the quarter-finals. The battle reached its height in Florence. In gruelling heat, a steely Spanish defence bravely resist-

ed the hard and almost violent team of the Squadra Azzurra and at the end of extra-time the score stood at 1-1. The match was to be replayed the next day. In an effort to rejuvenate their troops, both coaches called on fresh legs (five changes in the Italian team and seven for Spain), but player after player collapsed from sheer exhaustion.

Happily for the locals, the Squadra centre forward Giuseppe Meazza scored the only goal of the game. Two days later, a similar scenario took place in the semi-final against Austria, in Milan.



CAMPIONATO MONDIALE DI CALCIO

On a San Siro pitch resembling a quagmire after a torrential storm, it was again Meazza, playing his fourth game in a week, who scored the winning goal and qualified his team for the final. Italy's opponents were to be Czechoslovakia, conquerors of Germany.

On Sunday 10 June, the whole of Italy was holding its breath. There were still twenty minutes remaining when, from a corner, the Czechoslovakia left-winger Puc put his team ahead. The stadium was silenced.

With only a few minutes to go, however, the Italo-Argentinian Orsi equalised for Italy, forcing the game into extra-time. Italy suffered a blow when marksman Meazza was injured in a tackle, but he recovered sufficiently to lay on the winning goal for his team mate Schiavio. The Squadra Azzurra had displayed tenacity as well as undeniable footballing abilities and truly deserved to win.

France 1938

The third World Cup was played in France as the war clouds gathered throughout Europe and politics kept away a number of top nations. Austria qualified, but withdrew -- though some of their players appeared in the colours of Germany -- and Spain was ravaged by civil war. Argentina and Uruguay also stayed away.

Brazil and Poland produced one of the greatest games of all time in Strasbourg with the South Americans triumphing 6-5 after extra time, thanks to four goals from Leonidas who played barefoot for a spell. In the final, Italy beat Hungary 4-2 in Paris.

The World Cup competition on French soil, in modernised stadiums, enjoyed immense popular success and was the last opportunity for a display of international fellowship through football before war broke out the following year.

Civil war raged in Spain, Germany had annexed Austria and a crisis-ridden Europe was preparing for hostilities when FIFA decided that the third FIFA World Cup would take place in France. To rise to the occasion, the Stade de Colombes was enlarged while the stadiums at Bordeaux and Marseille were renovated. And for the first time the host nation and the holders qualified automatically, a privilege which lives on to this day.

Once again, however, the competition was boycotted by the South Americans, who felt that the tournament should have been held in Argentina this time around and not in Europe



again. Brazil did make the trip and proved to be the competition's biggest draw, playing their inimitably skilful game, getting off to a flying start and justifying their reputation by overcoming Poland after extra-time by an incredible 6 goals to 5 - Leonidas, "the black diamond", and Willimowski scoring four goals apiece! Sadly, the quarter-final game at Bordeaux between Brazil and Czechoslovakia ended in an all-out brawl: three players were sent off and five injured, two of whom were rushed to hospital with broken limbs.

The host nation France defeated Belgium (3-1), thanks largely to its right-winger Fred Aston, known as the "will-o'-the-wisp", whose bursting forays to the bye-line were decisive. Unhappily for the 58,455 supporters crammed into the Yves-du-Manoir stadium at Colombes, near Paris, for the quarter-final match, France went down 3-1 to Italy. Unlike Uruguay and Italy in the two previous competitions, France, the host nation, would not lift the FIFA World Cup played on its own soil.

The Italy-Brazil semi-final promised to be the final before the event itself, until the Brazilian coach Adhemar Pimenta made a gross error of judgement and decided to leave out two key players, most notably his marksman Leonidas. "I am resting him for the final," declared Pimenta. Far from being overawed, the Squadra Azzurra ran out victors (2-1) and earned the right to defend their title against Hungary, easy winners over Sweden.

In the final, Meazza and Ferrari, the two Italian playmakers, called the tune and the already legendary Italian pragmatism did the rest. Italy triumphed (4-2), and with back-to-back FIFA World Cup victories entered football history as one of the all-time great national teams. Alas, war came, putting an end to the FIFA World Cup competition for 12 years to come: and perhaps depriving this talented generation of Italian footballers of even greater glory.

Brazil 1950

Throughout the Second World War the Italian Vice-President of FIFA, Dr. Ottorino Barassi, hid the World Cup trophy in a shoe-box under his bed and thus saved it from falling into the hands of occupying troops.

The qualifying competition turned into something of a farce with teams qualifying then withdrawing - and teams already eliminated being offered places. India withdrew because FIFA would not let them play in bare feet. So only 13 teams participated in the final tournament.

The World Cup returned and Uruguay won it for a second time in the "final" which was not a final.

Before that, however, the United States beat England 1-0 in Belo Horizonte and Sweden's amateurs beat Italy 3-2 in Sao Paulo.

A mini-league format was used and Brazil, Sweden, Spain and Uruguay were the final contestants. Brazil needed only a draw in their clash with Uruguay to clinch the trophy, but lost 2-1 in front of a crowd of 174,000 in Rio's Maracana Stadium.

The first post-war FIFA congress meeting, held on 25 July 1946 in Luxembourg, was historic for several reasons. Firstly, by paying tribute to the FIFA President, who during the war years did everything in his power to keep the spirit of football alive.

The FIFA World Cup trophy was henceforth to be known as the "Jules Rimet Cup". The congress also heralded the return of the British associations, absent since 1929. It was to be the Brazilian Sports Confederation, however, whose team had made such an impact on the 1938 FIFA World Cup, that was granted the responsibility of hosting the next FIFA World Cup, scheduled for 1950.

Twelve years after the FIFA World Cup in France, the new competition emerged into a new era when the tournament was staged in the famous

Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro and other cities in Brazil. The planet's biggest stadium.

Football in Brazil had become so popular that it was decided to build a brand new stadium with a capacity of 220,000 in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro. Work began on 2 August 1948. The deadline however, proved too ambitious, and building work was soon running behind schedule. Five weeks before the opening match, the Brazilian organisers found themselves somewhat overwhelmed by the situation, and FIFA decided to send Dr. Ottorino Barassi, the president of the Italian Football Federation who had so brilliantly organised the 1934 FIFA World Cup, to Rio. On 24 June 1950, the Maracana stadium was officially inaugurated, though still looking like a building site and without a press stand. But the stadium was ready to play host to the 13 teams qualified for the finals. The teams were divided into 4 groups (2 groups of 4 teams, 1 group of 3 teams and 1 group of 2 teams).

After an easy victory over Mexico (4-0), the Brazilians, to everybody's surprise, were held to a draw (2-2) by the Swiss. Yugoslavia, having won its first two matches, needed only a draw against the Brazilians to qualify for the next round. But in front of a fervent 150,000-strong crowd at Maracana, Brazil ran out winners (2-0). Brazil thus qualified with three other teams, Spain, Uruguay and Sweden, not for the semi-finals, but for a final series of matches in round robin format, in which England and Italy were surprising absentees. After a week's rest, the Brazilians ran riot, thrashing Sweden (7-1) and then Spain (6-1). Nobody doubted for a minute that this impressive string of results would continue against Uruguay, who, having drawn against Spain, had just three points to their credit. The Brazilians therefore needed only a draw to become World champions.

In front of a capacity crowd, Brazil opened the score just after half-time, but seemed tense and never displayed their characteristic samba-style football. The Uruguayans equalised - far from being overawed by the partisan crowd - and then, with just 11 minutes to go, scored the winner. Brazil had lost "its" FIFA World Cup. A whole nation was plunged instantly into mourning. The Brazilian officials even forgot to present the Uruguayans with the FIFA World Cup trophy. And it was left to Jules Rimet himself to go down onto the pitch in search of the Uruguayan captain to perform the ceremony. Brazil could only console itself in the knowledge that the "Taça de Mondo" proved to be a tremendous sporting and financial success story. Football had entered a new era.



BRASIL

Switzerland 1954

Four years after the frenzy of the Maracana stadium, the Jules Rimet trophy returned to Europe to a calmer atmosphere in Switzerland. The field of play, however, produced breathtaking entertainment.

This fifth World Cup was unforgettable for its sensational high-scoring games, and a surprise win for the German Federal Republic. It was also the first time in history that all players wore a number on their shirt.

Hungary were the favourites with a team including Puskas, Bozsik, Kocsis and Hidegkuti, unbeaten in 28 internationals and Olympic champions. But after the infamous "Battle of Bern" with Brazil - three players were sent off and the teams fought afterwards in the dressing rooms - the Hungarians were rattled.

In the final, after leading 2-0 against West Germany, whom they had beaten 8-3 in the opening round, they went down 3-2.

The World Cup, staged in Switzerland at the foot of the Alps, was to soar to new heights in 1954. The qualifying rounds featured a higher number of nations than ever before, with the AFC founded in 1954 also including several teams from Asia (Japan and Korea) and Africa (Egypt), giving the event a truly global dimension.

Sixteen teams took part in the finals, three more than in Brazil four years earlier. South America was represented by Uruguay, Brazil and Mexico; the Asian qualifier was Korea (the first Asian team having been the Dutch East Indies in 1938), and the Europeans were Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Hungary, Italy, Scotland, Switzerland, Turkey, West Germany and Yugoslavia. This figure



remained constant until the 1982 World Cup in Spain, when it rose to 24.

The quality of football in the games at Basle, Bern, Lausanne, Zurich and Geneva, the five host cities, reached dizzying heights in 1954. In 26 matches, an incredible total of 140 goals was scored, making an average of 5.38 goals per game. Needless to say, this is still the record for the number of goals scored in a World Cup final competition.

The Hungarians, Olympic gold medal winners two years earlier, and unbeaten since May 1950 (31 games: 27 wins and 4 draws), were the incontestable favourites. From the outset of this fifth World Cup, the "magical Magyars", who included in their ranks Ferenc Puskas, Jozsef Bozsik and Sandor Kocsis, showed their class by thrashing Korea (9-0) and an admittedly under-strength German side, 8-3.

In the quarter-finals, Hungary, still on a roll, beat Brazil (4-2) in a high-tension match that ended in the dressing rooms when players, managers and the two delegations came to blows.

Surprises came with two other European teams. Firstly, Switzerland, who beat Italy and provoked the latter's "humiliating" first-round exit from the competition, but who were eventually eliminated by Austria in an epic struggle (5-7, another record).

Secondly, the West Germans, who confidently pursued their way through to the final and another meeting with their first-round conquerors, the Hungarians. The spectators were expecting the Hungarian magic to work again; and indeed, Hungary rapidly went two goals ahead. In ten memorable minutes the West Germans had fought back to equalise, and more was yet to come.

After the Hungarians hit the post, Helmut Rahn scored the winner for West Germany with only six minutes remaining, when the Hungarian goalkeeper, Gyula Grosics, slid on the wet grass as he was about to go for the ball.

The Wankdorf stadium in Bern was thus the scene for one of the biggest ever FIFA World Cup surprises on that Sunday, 4 July 1954. For the West Germans, as we now know, this first World Cup trophy was to pave the way to continued success.



ENGLAND



Arsenal celebrate winning the Premiership after their home victory against Everton.

ARSENAL CELEBRATE TITLE WIN, LIVERPOOL CLINCH SECOND WHILE IPSWICH SADLY RELEGATED

Liverpool5
Ipswich Town0

Liverpool secured second place in the FA Premiership and condemned Ipswich Town to relegation with a 5-0 win at Anfield.

The victory for Gérard Houllier's side earned them direct entry into next season's Champions League - and left Manchester United in third place, their lowest league finish since 1991.

Needing the unlikely combination of a win at Anfield and a Derby County victory at Sunderland, George Burley's Ipswich side never looked close to pulling off a last-day miracle.

John Arne Riise dealt the first blow to their hopes, powering home in typical fashion after 13 minutes and then adding a second in the 35th.

Michael Owen pounced on a Titus Bramble error just after the interval to put Liverpool three ahead before Vladimir Smicer and Nicolas Anelka rounded off the scoring.

Arsenal4
Everton3

Thierry Henry scored twice as Arsenal celebrated their league and cup double with a 4-3 home win against Everton. Henry's 23rd and 24th goals of the season meant he finished the FA Premiership's leading scorer - as well as helping secure the north Londoners' 13th straight league win.

There was another landmark as veteran full-back Lee Dixon made his final appearance in an Arsenal shirt before retiring.

Dennis Bergkamp slotted home Arsenal's opener after just four minutes but Lee Carsley's 20th-minute drive drew Everton level. Tomasz Radzinski's solo run and strike put the visitors ahead before Thierry

Henry drew Arsène Wenger's side back on level terms. Henry and Francis Jeffers, playing against his old club, made it 4-2 before Steve Watson scored a late consolation goal for Everton.

Man Utd0
Charlton0

Manchester United will enter the Champions League third qualifying round after a 0-0 draw with Charlton Athletic consigned them to third place.

The Old Trafford crowd saw a final bow from former Irish international Denis Irwin but also welcomed the good news of David Beckham's new three-year contract.

Southampton3
Newcastle1

An injury to England's Kieron Dyer overshadowed Southampton 3-1 win at home against Newcastle United.

The winger was hurt in a dreadful two-footed challenge from Tahar El Khalej and the referee had no hesitation in issuing a straight red card to the Moroccan.

Blackburn3
Fulham0

Just 48 hours after being left out of Sven-Göran Eriksson's final England squad, Andy Cole gave the national coach a reminder of what he would be missing as he grabbed a double against Fulham.

Damien Duff also scored as Blackburn Rovers finished the season with a 3-0 win.

Chelsea1
Aston Villa3

Chelsea, still smarting from last week's FA Cup final defeat,

plunged to a 3-1 home defeat against Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge.

Peter Crouch headed Villa into the lead in the 21st minute, rising above the Chelsea defence to nod home Steve Stone's inswinging corner.

World Cup-bound Darius Vassell made it 2-0 to Villa in the second half before Icelandic international Eidur Gudjohnsen pulled one back for Chelsea with a 70th minute spot-kick.

But Dion Dublin made sure for Graham Taylor's men in the final minutes.

Leicester City2
Tottenham1

At Filbert Street, relegated Leicester bade a victorious farewell to the top flight with a 2-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur.

Spurs' skipper Teddy Sheringham fired his side ahead from the spot on 54 minutes before the Foxes hit back through Paul Dickov and Matthew Piper.

Leeds Utd1
Middlesbrough0

At Elland Road, Leeds signed off with a 1-0 win over Middlesbrough thanks to a 63rd minute right-footed strike from Alan Smith.

Sunderland1
Derby County1

Sunderland, were held 1-1 by relegated Derby at the Stadium of Light. Kevin Phillips put Peter Reid's men 1-0 up before Marvin Robinson levelled for the Rams.

West Ham2
Bolton1

At Upton Park, West Ham finished the season on a winning note in dramatic fashion when Ian Pearce scored an 89th-minute clincher in a 2-1 win for the Hammers over Bolton.

Bolton's Yuri Djorkaeff had equalised in the second-half after Steve Lomas put West Ham ahead.



Arsenal players are jubilant after their 1-0 victory at Old Trafford and snared them the title.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Sunderland 1 Derby County 1, West Ham United 2 Bolton Wanderers 1, Arsenal 4 Everton 3, Blackburn Rovers 3 Fulham 0, Chelsea 1 Aston Villa 3, Leeds United 1 Middlesbrough 0, Leicester City 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1, Liverpool 5 Ipswich Town 0, Manchester Utd 0 Charlton Athletic 0, Southampton 3 Newcastle United 1

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1 Arsenal	38	26	9	3	79-36	87
2 Liverpool	38	24	8	6	67-30	80
3 Manchester Utd	38	24	5	9	87-45	77
4 Newcastle United	38	21	8	9	74-52	71
5 Leeds United	38	18	12	8	53-37	66
6 Chelsea	38	17	13	8	66-38	64
7 West Ham United	38	15	8	15	48-57	53
8 Aston Villa	38	12	14	12	46-47	50
9 Tottenham Hotspur	38	14	8	16	49-53	50
10 Blackburn Rovers	38	12	10	16	55-51	46
11 Southampton	38	12	9	17	46-54	45
12 Middlesbrough	38	12	9	17	35-47	45
13 Fulham	38	10	14	14	36-44	44
14 Charlton Athletic	38	10	14	14	38-49	44
15 Everton	38	11	10	17	45-57	43
16 Bolton Wanderers	38	9	13	16	44-62	40
17 Sunderland	38	10	10	18	29-51	40
18 Ipswich Town	38	9	9	20	41-64	36
19 Derby County	38	8	6	24	33-63	30
20 Leicester City	38	5	13	20	30-64	28

Champions: Arsenal

Relegated: Leicester, Derby, Ipswich

FIRST DIVISION

Play-off final result at the Millennium Stadium:

Birmingham 1 (Horsfield 102)

Norwich 1 (Roberts 91)

after extra-time 0-0 after 90 minutes

*Birmingham win 4-2 on penalties and are promoted to the Premiership



Birmingham players celebrates their win over Norwich City.

SECOND DIVISION

Play-off final result at the Millennium Stadium:

Bentford 0

Stoke City 2

(Burton 16, Burgess og 45)

*Stoke City are promoted to Division 1.



Stoke City celebrate their promotion to the English First Division.

Spanish Primera Liga

BARCELONA SALVAGE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPOT AS CHAMPIONS VALENCIA SIGN OFF IN STYLE

Barcelona wrapped up Spain's fourth Champions' League spot, but they were made to work hard for their point at Real Zaragoza.

The home side, who had already been relegated, began well, and took the lead on nine minutes as Santiago Aragon crashed a first-time shot past Roberto Bonano.

That was not enough, though, to prevent fans who had vowed to boycott the game from leaving, as planned, after 15 minutes. And things got worse for Zaragoza as Javier Saviola levelled on 43 minutes after a cushioned knockdown from Luis Enrique.

Patrick Kluivert then looked to have a stone-cold penalty ruled out, but Barca were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Celta Vigo were the only team who could have caught Barca, but they went down 1-0 to Rayo Vallecano, so would not have caught the Catalans even had they lost. Roberto Peragon snatched the winner with two minutes remaining.

Real Mallorca came from behind to beat Valladolid to preserve their top flight status, sending Las Palmas and Tenerife down.

Mallorca began the day fourth bottom, but fell into danger as Valladolid midfielder Fernando struck the only goal of the game on 35 minutes. Ariel Ibagaza levelled the scores on 50 minutes, and Albert Luque got the all-important second on 18 minutes.

A 73rd minute equaliser from

Real Sociedad forward Darko Kovacevic ended Las Palmas' hopes of avoiding the drop. Jorge had given them the lead from a 17th minute penalty, and Edu was sent off late on.

Tenerife at least looked like saying farewell to the top flight with a win, as they came from behind to lead Athletic Bilbao but the visit-



Valencia captain Santiago Canizares holds up Spanish League trophy.

tors ran out 3-2 winners after late goals from Ismael Urzaiz and Julien Gurrero.

Urzaiz had put Bilbao ahead after 10 minutes, capitalising on a defensive error and clipping the ball past Julio Iglesias from 35 yards. Jaime headed home from a corner to level for Tenerife six minutes later, and Esteban Fuentes added a second on the stroke of

Rayo Vallecano 1 Celta 0, Osasuna 0 Alaves 1, Tenerife 2 Athletic 3, Real Sociedad 1 Las Palmas 1, Mallorca 2 Valladolid 1, Valencia 2 Betis 0, Espanyol 1 Malaga 2, Zaragoza 1 Barcelona 1, Sevilla 1 Villarreal 0, Deportivo 3 Real 0

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1 Valencia	38	21	12	5	51-27	75
2 Deportivo	38	20	8	10	65-41	68
3 Real	38	19	9	10	69-44	66
4 Barcelona	38	18	10	10	65-37	64
5 Celta	38	16	12	10	64-46	60
6 Betis	38	15	14	9	42-34	59
7 Alaves	38	17	3	18	41-44	54
8 Sevilla	38	14	11	13	51-40	53
9 Malaga	38	13	14	11	44-44	53
10 Athletic	38	14	11	13	54-66	53
11 Rayo Vallecano	38	13	10	15	46-52	49
12 Valladolid	38	13	9	16	45-58	48
13 Real Sociedad	38	13	8	17	48-54	47
14 Espanyol	38	13	8	17	47-56	47
15 Villarreal	38	11	10	17	46-55	43
16 Mallorca	38	11	10	17	40-52	43
17 Osasuna	38	10	12	16	36-49	42
18 Las Palmas	38	9	13	16	40-50	40
19 Tenerife	38	10	8	20	32-58	38
20 Zaragoza	38	9	10	19	35-54	37

half-time before the game was delayed due to floodlight failure.

Alaves sewed up the last Uefa Cup spot as they beat Osasuna. Antonio Karmona put them ahead on 39 minutes. Seville finished a point further back after they beat Villarreal 1-0 thanks to Mariano Toedtli's 29th minute penalty.

Level with Seville were Malaga who beat Espanyol 2-1. Carlos Manuel Litos and Kiki Musampa got their goals, while Raul Tamudo missed a first half penalty and then pulled one back seven minutes after the break.

Champions Valencia signed off

from their most successful season in over three decades with victory over Real Betis, who had long been assured of a Uefa Cup spot. Ruben Baraja set them on their way just before half-time, Gaston Casas missed a second half penalty for Betis before Vicente added a late second for a 2-0 win.

Deportivo La Coruna clinched the league runners-up spot in Spain with a polished performance at the Riazor on Friday night, consigning Real Madrid to the qualifying round of the Champions' League unless they win next week's final.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Juventus are the champions of Italy for the 26th time in what was a most dramatic end to the season. "One can never write off Juventus - there is nothing like a full strength Juventus. Juventus still stands today as the best club side in world football", all quotes taken from this column in ABSW's February 26 edition this year.

Three months ago we predicted that the Turin giants would win the Scudetto and Champions League. On the latter account a miserable failure has to be recorded but on the former it was a completely different story.

In fact it is hard to believe that they won, even a week after the dramatic last day. Stealing a line from a former Australian Prime Minister it would be safe to say, "that this is a victory for the true believers".

Italian coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, basically said that the title was Inter's. Many others thought so as well. The question remains how did they manage to blow a six-point lead they had on the Serie A table only a few weeks earlier?

In fact Inter ended up finishing third behind Juventus and Roma. A friend in Rome told me on the night before the final round that Lazio would lose to Inter, just to make sure that Inter won the title and not Roma.

It was an elaborate theory that was doing the rounds of the Roman cafes but obviously the figment of someone's creative imagination. There is no doubt that Lazio and Roma would never do each other a favour given their rivalry. However, such a plot did seem unbelievable.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi described it as the most beautiful of his four Scudettos. It was sweet revenge for the man that Inter discarded some 20 months earlier. Lippi never did fit into the Inter set up and when he returned to Juventus at the start of this year he said that he always felt as if he was "the Juventus coach". Indeed he is.

Lippi, some would even say, is the best coach full stop. Personally I have always thought Fabio Capello was the best of the current Serie A mentors but Lippi would be right up there on his heels.

Capello, Trapattoni and Arrigo Sacchi have all achieved their fair share of success. Lippi, however, has done something that all three failed to do. He won another Scudetto with the same club in his second stint there.

Trapattoni was arguably the most successful Juventus coach in recent memory. Six Scudettos there in 11 years before he moved on to Inter in 1986.

When he returned to Juve for his second stint in the early 1990s for three more years, he could never replicate his original success. The Scudetto eluded him and Juventus ended up sacking him. Sacchi revolutionised AC Milan when he took over in 1987. His methods, especially the pressing defence and the flamboyant attack, were what made the club so successful. In four years there he won one Scudetto, two Champions Leagues and two Toyota Cups. He then took over the Italian national team in November 1991.

He returned to AC Milan, after quitting the Italian job before he was pushed, for season 1996/97. That year was a disaster for the club. They finished 11th. Sacchi had failed to recapture his former magic and was duly sacked. He, like Trapattoni, had failed in his second stint at the same club.

Capello took over from Sacchi twice at AC Milan. Firstly in 1991 and he remained at the helm for five years, before moving to Real Madrid in 1996. He won four Scudettos and one Champions League in his time there.

He took over again from Sacchi in 1997. That season, like the previous, was another AC Milan disaster year. They finished 10th. Capello was sacked and he too could now join the list of second time failures.

Lippi though had brought Juventus what they wanted. One year back at the helm and immediately a Scudetto is theirs. He joined in 1994 and lasted until 1999 in his first Juventus stint. In that time he won three Scudettos, one Toyota Cup, one Champions League and twice more they were finalists in the Champions League.

But back to Inter and how it all went wrong. This club has not won a Scudetto since 1989. Massimo Moratti has been President for the last seven years and it would be fair to say that he has been a big part in their failure.

He has plenty of money and has attempted to buy a title. Ronaldo, Vieri and Recoba are just three of the approximately 80 players that he has bought in those seven years.

He has employed nine coaches (including Lippi) but all to no avail. For all his money he can claim only one UEFA Cup, a second place in the Serie A in 1998 and now a third place finish.

In fact Inter will have to go through the early qualifying stages of the Champions League starting in July while Juve and Roma have direct entry.

The images of Ronaldo crying on the bench as Lazio beat Inter 4-2, thus relegating them to third place, will remain in the memory for many years to come. It sums up Inter. Frustration and money, but not much else.

Their supporters will have to wait another year. It is starting to sound very familiar to them because they have been saying it since 1989.



UEFA CUP FINAL



DUTCH DELIGHT AS FEYENOORD WINS UEFA CUP

APierre van Hooijdonk double inspired Feyenoord to UEFA Cup glory tonight after an enthralling battle with 10-man Borussia Dortmund.

AC Milan-bound Jon Dahl Tomasson grabbed what turned out to be the match winner to render Marcio Amoroso's penalty and Jan Koller's super strike obsolete.

Matthias Sammer's men travelled to De Kuip home of their rivals intent on making it a full set of European trophies.

Instead, it was the Rotterdammers who reclaimed the title 28 years after their last.

AC Milan-bound Tomasson almost latched on to a long ball but Christian Wornas was alert to clear.

Robin Van Persie won the early battles with Brazilian wingback Evanilson, who looked anxious not to make a mistake. Van Persie turned the Dortmund star in knots before crossing too strong and minutes later delivered a dangerous low ball that goalkeeper Jens Lehmann cleared straight to Japanese international Shinji Ono - who chose precision over power with his return.

The opening goal came in the 18th minute, Dutch international striker Van Hooijdonk lined up one of his trademark free-kicks from over 30 yards out, as the Rotterdammers stamped their approval in De Kuip seats.

Van Hooijdonk's response was equally as thunderous, the ball crashing back off the post as Lehmann looked on motionless.

The game was to turn in dramatic fashion on the half-hour mark. Kohler came into the game looking to celebrate his retirement with a UEFA Cup winners' medal to add to the Bundesliga crown he claimed at the

weekend. One mistimed tackle later and as Tomasson lay writing inside the box, Kohler was on his way back to the dressing room after Portuguese referee Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira deemed it a professional foul.

The fairytale that Sammer had wished on his veteran defender was turning into the scene of a horror movie.

Van Hooijdonk kept his composure and slotted in the penalty and De Kuip was a sea

of red light as the fireworks shone in celebration.

Van Hooijdonk was given the opportunity to try his luck again five minutes later after the Germans gave away another free-kick, a couple of yards closer than the first.

Same corner, more swerve, 2-0. Van Hooijdonk galloped away to his fanatical supporters, bare chested and on a UEFA Cup final hat-trick.

Whatever Sammer's thoughts on the referee's first-half decisions, he was applauding the official within seconds of the restart.

Brazilian striker Amoroso went shoulder to shoulder with Patrick Paaue and as the frontman tumbled, Pereira pointed to the spot. Amoroso drilled the ball past Zoetebier to give Dortmund a lifeline.

Within a minute though the two-goal cushion was restored and again it was tinged with controversy.

Van Hooijdonk looked to be clearly off-side as the ball was lobbed over the static Dortmund defence but Tomasson strode on, controlling the ball in his path before lashing it past Lehmann.

Tomasson then volleyed over after 54 minutes as Feyenoord looked to kill the match but his profligacy was punished three minutes later in magnificent fashion.

Giant Czech striker Koller dropped off the Dutch defence on the right edge of the area and chested the ball down, timing his half-volley to perfection as it looped high



Pierre Van Hooijdonk lifts up the UEFA Cup.



Feyenoord celebrate their UEFA Cup win

EUROPE'S DOMESTIC LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

ITALIAN SERIE A - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Juventus	34	20	11	3	64-23	71
2. Roma	34	19	13	2	58-24	70
3. Inter	34	20	9	5	62-35	69
4. Milan	34	14	13	7	47-33	55
5. Chievo	34	14	12	8	57-52	54
6. Lazio	34	14	11	9	50-37	53
7. Bologna	34	15	7	12	40-40	52
8. Perugia	34	13	7	14	38-46	46
9. Atalanta	34	12	9	13	41-50	45
10. Parma	34	12	8	14	43-47	44
11. Torino	34	10	13	11	37-39	43
12. Piacenza	34	11	9	14	49-43	42
13. Brescia	34	9	13	12	43-52	40
14. Udinese	34	11	7	16	41-52	40
15. Verona	34	11	6	17	41-53	39
16. Lecce	34	6	10	18	36-56	28
17. Fiorentina	34	5	7	22	29-63	22
18. Venezia	34	3	9	22	30-61	18



Juventus David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero embrace after clinching the Scudetto on the final day.

GERMANY BUNDESLIGA - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Borussia (D)	34	21	7	6	62-33	70
2. Bayer	34	21	6	7	77-38	69
3. Bayern	34	20	8	6	65-25	68
4. Hertha	34	18	7	9	61-38	61
5. Schalke 04	34	18	7	9	52-36	61
6. Werder	34	17	5	12	54-43	56
7. Kaiserslautern	34	17	5	12	62-53	56
8. Stuttgart	34	13	11	10	47-43	50
9. 1860 Munchen	34	15	5	14	59-59	50
10. Wolfsburg	34	13	7	14	57-49	46
11. Hamburger	34	10	10	14	51-57	40
12. Borussia (M)	34	9	12	13	41-53	39
13. Energie	34	9	8	17	36-60	35
14. Hansa	34	9	7	18	35-54	34
15. Nurnberg	34	10	4	20	34-57	34
16. Freiburg	34	7	9	18	37-64	30
17. Cologne	34	7	8	19	26-61	29
18. St. Pauli	34	4	10	20	37-70	22



Dortmund celebrate their remarkable Bundesliga title.

DUTCH - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Ajax	34	22	7	5	73-34	73
2. PSV	34	20	8	6	77-32	68
3. Feyenoord	34	19	7	8	68-29	64
4. Heerenveen	34	17	9	8	57-27	60
5. Vitesse	34	16	12	6	45-34	60
6. NAC	34	15	9	10	55-52	54
7. Utrecht	34	14	9	11	60-51	51
8. RKC	34	14	6	14	49-44	48
9. NEC	34	13	6	15	38-59	45
10. AZ	34	12	7	15	43-45	43
11. Willem II	34	10	13	11	54-61	43
12. Twente	34	10	12	12	41-41	42
13. Roda	34	11	8	15	33-45	41
14. De Graafschap	34	10	7	17	43-55	37
15. Groningen	34	10	7	17	40-59	37
16. Den Bosch	34	8	9	17	40-55	33
17. Sparta	34	4	12	18	26-75	24
18. Fortuna	34	3	8	23	27-71	17



Ajax players celebrate after being crowned Dutch champions.

BELGIUM - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Genk	34	20	12	2	85-43	72
2. Brugge	34	22	4	8	74-41	70
3. Anderlecht	34	18	12	4	71-37	66
4. Gent	34	16	10	8	62-51	58
5. Standard	34	15	12	7	57-38	57
6. Mouscron	34	17	5	12	68-40	56
7. Lokeren	34	15	10	9	43-33	55
8. Sint-Truiden	34	16	5	13	52-47	53
9. Germinal	34	11	16	7	68-51	49
10. RWDM	34	13	5	16	51-59	44
11. La Louviere	34	12	8	14	41-52	44
12. Lommel	34	10	9	15	54-66	39
13. Charleroi	34	11	6	17	40-63	39
14. Westerlo	34	9	9	16	49-61	36
15. Lierse	34	9	8	17	55-255	35
16. Antwerp	34	7	10	17	47-67	31
17. Aalst	34	4	9	21	32-73	21
18. Beveren	34	2	8	24	30-91	14



Genk players celebrate their title win.

SCOTTISH - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Celtic	38	33	4	1	94-18	103
2. Rangers	38	25	10	3	82-27	85
3. Livingston	38	16	10	12	50-47	58
4. Aberdeen	38	16	7	15	51-49	55
5. Kilmarnock	38	13	10	15	44-54	49
6. Hearts	38	14	6	18	52-57	48
7. Dundee United	38	12	10	16	38-59	46
8. Dunfermline	38	12	9	17	41-64	45
9. Dundee	38	12	8	18	41-55	44
10. Hibernian	38	10	11	17	51-56	41
11. Motherwell	38	11	7	20	49-69	40
12. St. Johnstone	38	5	6	27	24-62	21



Celtic's Henrik Larsson celebrates as Paul Lambert holds aloft the Championship trophy.

FRENCH - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Olympique (L)	34	20	6	8	62-32	66
2. Lens	34	18	10	6	55-30	64
3. Auxerre	34	16	11	7	48-38	59
4. Paris Saint Germain	34	15	13	6	43-24	58
5. Lille	34	15	11	8	39-32	56
6. Bordeaux	34	14	8	12	34-31	50
7. Troyes	34	13	8	13	40-35	47
8. Sochaux	34	12	10	12	41-40	46
9. Olympique (M)	34	11	11	12	34-39	44
10. Nanteo	34	12	7	15	35-41	43
11. Bastia	34	12	5	17	38-44	41
12. Rennais	34	11	8	15	40-51	41
13. Montpellier	34	9	13	12	28-31	40
14. Sedan	34	8	15	11	35-39	39
15. Monaco	34	9	12	13	36-41	39
16. Guingamp	34	9	8	17	34-57	35
17. Metz	34	9	6	19	31-47	33
18. Lorient	34	7	10	17	43-64	31



Lyon beat rivals Lens to snare the French League title.

CROATIA - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1. Zagreb	30	20	7	3	71	24	67
2. Hajduk Split	30	20	5	5	61	28	65
3. Dinamo Zagreb	30	18	5	7	58	30	59
4. Varteks	30	17	6	7	58	39	57
5. Rijeka	30	15	6	9	46	37	51
6. Slaven Belupo	30	11	9	10	34	36	42
7. Pomorac	30	12	4	14	36	41	40
8. Osijek	30	11	4	15	45	48	37
9. Cibalia	30	9	9	12	34	37	36
10. Sibenik	30	10	6	14	33	36	36
11. Zadar	30	9	9	12	43	47	36
12. Kamen Ingrad	30	9	8	13	28	46	35
13. Hrvatski Dragovoljac	30	9	7	14	34	45	34
14. Cakovec	30	9	5	16	31	44	32
15. Marsonia	30	8	6	16	37	46	30
16. TSK	30	4	2	23	31	95	14



Zagreb were crowned champions of Croatia in 2001/2002.

GREECE - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Olympiakos	26	17	7	2	69	30	39	58
2. AEK	26	19	1	6	65	28	37	58
3. Panathinaikos	26	16	7	3	52	25	27	55
4. PAOK	26	14	6	6	54	45	9	48
5. Xanthi	26	12	6	8	34	26	8	42
6. Iraklis	26	9	9	8	32	35	-3	36
7. Panionios	26	8	11	7	37	33	4	35
8. OFI	26	9	6	11	32	33	-1	33
9. Aris	26	7	8	11	25	34	-9	29
10. Aegaleo	26	7	5	14	26	45	-19	26
11. Akrotitos	26	6	5	15	29	41	-12	23
12. Ionikos	26	5	7	14	21	47	-26	22
13. Panahaiki	26	3	9	14	26	55	-29	18
14. Ethnikos Asteras	26	4	5	17	19	44	-25	17



Olympiakos players celebrate their 6th consecutive League title.

PORTUGAL - FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Sporting	34	22	9	3	74-25	75
2. Boavista	34	21	7	6	53-20	70
3. Porto	34	21	5	8	96-34	68
4. Benfica	34	17	12	5	66-37	63
5. Belenenses	34	17	6	11	54-44	57
6. Maritimo	34	17	5	12	48-35	56
7. Leiria	34	15	10	9	52-35	55
8. Pacos de Ferreira	34	12	10	12	41-44	46
9. Braga	34	10	12	12	43-43	42
10. Guimaraes	34	11	9	14	35-41	42
11. Beira-Mar	34	10	9	15	48-56	39
12. Vitoria Setubal	34	9	11	14	40-46	38
13. Gil Vicente	34	10	8	16	42-56	38
14. Santa Clara	34	9	10	15	32-46	37
15. Varzim	34	8	8	18	27-55	32
16. Salgueiros	34	8	6	20	29-71	30
17. Farense	34	7	7	20	29-63	28
18. Alverca	34	7	6	21	39-67	27



Sporting players wheel off in ecstasy after claiming the League title.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL 2001/2002

Sunday May 12. Subiaco Oval



2001/2002 NSL CHAMPIONS THE OLYMPIC SHARKS